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# Saipan Tribune

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OPINION METER

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ahead with a  
homestead  
project in Marpi?

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## College Bound

Three members of a local family on island are taking pride in pursuing higher education at NMC.

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## New Owners

Triple J Saipan Inc. has acquired majority ownership of the Tony Roma's and Capricciosa restaurants in Garapan.

LOCAL...Page 6



## Efron Video

In a new Web video, Zac Efron hosts a star-studded pool party that dissolves quickly when his rude uncle arrives.

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Delay in Tinian doctor's salary was due to 'technical problem' **PAGE 6**

# 60th Battle of Saipan docu missing

## Veterans seek video footage of 2004 'campfire chat'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Five years have passed since the 60th commemoration of the Battle of Saipan but copies of the June 2004 documentary resulting from hundreds of hours of filming by the Northern Marianas College and Talk Story Studios have yet to find their way to the CNMI Archives, the CNMI Council for the Humanities, the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library and the American Memorial Park, among other local and regional repositories of historic records.

**SPECIAL REPORT**



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
The American Memorial Park, where most of the 60th commemoration of the Battle of Saipan was held.

These agencies also indicated they do not know if an edited documentary exists.

Because they do not possess

copies of the documentary produced from the filming, these agencies cannot make copies

See 60TH on Page 4

'RYDLYME WAS  
USED TO CLEAN  
FLOOR, DISPOSED  
OF ON TINIAN'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Three of the four witnesses presented yesterday by the U.S. government in the ongoing jury trial of Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez testified that Rydlyme was used only to clean the floor, was never used at Tinian's power plant, and was instead disposed of.

The U.S. government called to the witness stand former CUC water treatment supervisor Joaquin Reyes Lizama, Tinian Telesource power plant manager Jeffrey Barr, Tinian Telesource power plant quality control and fuel handler Miguel R. Viches, and CUC purchasing specialist Vincent M. Cepeda.

See RYDLYME on Page 4

# 99 Cents, Townhouse settle EEOC suit for \$80K

## Six female cashiers complain of sexual harassment

The owner of 99 Cents Supermarket and Townhouse Department Store will pay \$80,000 to settle a sexual harassment, pregnancy discrimination and retaliation case filed by the U.S. Equal Employment

Opportunity Commission, the agency said yesterday.

The case highlights the continued prevalence of sexual harassment cases on the islands, according to a ranking EEOC official.

"Unfortunately, sexual harassment continues to be a problem in the Marianas. The EEOC will continue to make a major effort, through aggressive litigation and extensive

See 99 CENTS on Page 4

# DPL: Public input before any Marpi homestead

By KRISTI EATON  
kristi\_eaton@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Representatives from the Department of Public Lands and Ampro assured about 20 people gathered yesterday in Marpi that the vegetation clearing is purely to excavate unexploded ordnance and the public will get a chance for input on any future

See DPL on Page 4



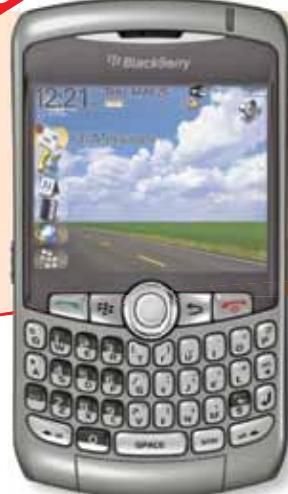
KRISTI EATON  
About 20 people gather in Marpi yesterday to learn about the excavation of unexploded ordnance and any future plans for homestead development. Inset shows some of the unexploded ordnance found in the Marpi area near Suicide Cliff recently.

# Local

## The family that studies together...

EXTENDED  
SPECIAL

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BY MONETH G. DEPOSA  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Three members of a local family on island are taking pride in pursuing higher education simultaneously at the local community college.

Couple Clarice Arriola and Dolores Leon Guerrero, together with their daughter RosRee Ann, have become an unwitting inspiration to the community for their dedication and commitment to achieving their goals in life.

Father Clarice, 46, is currently pursuing majors in business and computer applications while mother Dolores is taking nursing and liberal courses—both at the Northern Marianas College.

Next month, the proud parents will march with daughter RosRee Ann when she graduates with an associate degree in liberal arts.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that two other daughters in the family are also attending college programs abroad, one of whom is an NMC alumna.

Clarice, who is a full-time student taking 16 full credit units, says having the support of his family members is quite comforting when challenging situations come up and they are there to help one another.

By going back to school, he believes he can fulfill his dreams and shape them into reality.

“Our economic success is dependent on the qualification and technical know-how of its citizens...and going back to school is the first step to that reality,” he told *Saipan Tribune*.

He said he decided to pursue higher education to gain the technical credentials and



RosRee Ann, center, is all smiles as she poses with her parents, Dolores and Clarice, during a class break at the Northern Marianas College. The family continues to inspire their colleagues on campus and the community by showing dedication and commitment to further their education simultaneously.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ects and presentations. Yes, it affected my family life in the sense that I am more calculated in my daily schedules and I am required to share my free time with them and tend to the needs of the family support group,” Clarice said.

The father, aware of the “fruits” he will reap someday, encouraged everybody to further their education so they could achieve their fullest potential. He said attending NMC or schools abroad will enhance one’s skill base and personal qualifications to meet future demands for management positions in the private sector, government, or in the pursuit of higher educational goals.

“If you can imagine it...you can achieve it,” Clarice said.

#### ‘Never too late’

Dolores Leon Guerrero says going back to classes was never too late for her.

“I had some credits from the past and I thought that it would be nice to finish it. My husband and I decided to go for it, plus it’s never too late to attend college,” she said.

For this mother of three, college feels a little bit like high school but with higher expectations.

Attending college with her husband and daughter, the 44-year-old mother admitted being secure in that they learned to help one another and could share views and opinions on a variety of issues.

She wants to inspire those in the community to fulfill their dreams and goals by taking the first step: education.

Twenty-year-old RosRee Ann told *Saipan Tribune* that she’s truly proud of her parents.

“Having both of them enroll as college students makes me feel very proud. It’s nice to see my parents furthering their education. They are doing good... and achieving their goals, Go Mom and Dad!” she said.

The graduating liberal art student said going to college has resulted in some changes in their family dynamics but these are all “good and positive” changes.

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# Up to 1,000 needed in nat'l diabetes study starting Monday

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

A national health study will begin at the Commonwealth Health Center on Monday, with up to a thousand participants needed to help find the cause of kidney diseases and diabetes, according to Dr. Jeff Curtis of the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases.

Curtis, who is in Guam, said yesterday the health team will start seeing participants at 10am at the new CHC building on Monday.

The study will be conducted on April 13, 14, 15, 18, 20 and

## US Immigration looking for office space

The General Services Administration has announced it is seeking office space to lease on Saipan for the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to use, one of the recent steps the federal government has made as it prepares to take over the local immigration system.

GSA, an independent federal agency that supports the basic functioning of federal agencies, is seeking ABOUT 17,940 square feet in office space and 19 parking spaces for ICE.

A spokesperson for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement declined to give further details on ICE's operations on Saipan, including why the office space will not be needed until December 2010, when the

21 at CHC, and at St. Jude's Renal Center at the back of Saipan Health Clinic on April 16 and 17.

"If the responses are overwhelming, people may be asked to come back for an appointment," Curtis said in a phone interview.

Leading the Saipan study are Dr. Robert Hanson of NIDDKD and Jenny Duenas of the Micronesian Institute for Disease Prevention and Research, said Curtis.

Qualified to participate are those who are at least 18 years old, not pregnant, and at least 50 percent Chamorro, Carolinian, other Micronesian, or Filipino.

### CONTACT INFO

- CHC Hemodialysis: (670) 236-8303/04
- St. Jude's Renal Center: (670) 234-2905
- MIDPR Office In Guam: (671) 632-7230/34 or (671) 689-7230.

If not a diabetic or a dialysis patient, participants must fast for eight hours. Only water is allowed.

If they qualify, these individuals will be asked to participate in a 20- to 30-minute interview, and undergo blood pressure measurement and blood and urine tests for diabetes and kidney disease.

Participants will receive a one-time payment of \$25.

"We hope to be able to understand better what causes kidney disease in people with diabetes and by understanding what causes it, we can prevent and treat it better than we can now," Curtis said.

The CNMI has been found to have the third largest number of

diabetes cases after Pima Indians and Nauru. Based on 2002 statistics, there are over 3,000 known diabetes patients in the CNMI, mostly Chamorros and Carolinians, and other Pacific islanders.

"It's possible that the process of developing kidney disease and diabetes is different among ethnicities, like Chamorros, Carolinians, Micronesians and Filipinos. We believe it's important enough for the people here to have this study," Curtis added.

Dr. Richard Brostrom, medical director for public health, said the CNMI Department of Public Health granted final approval on the conduct of the study on Saipan.

"The decision was made last

week [Friday] after an excellent presentation by Dr. Curtis," Brostrom told *Saipan Tribune*. "Our job is to make sure patient confidentiality is protected and that the family has consent. Both of these were assured by Dr. Curtis."

The study is sponsored by the

National Institutes of Health and MIDPR, in collaboration with the CNMI Diabetes Coalition, Club Hinemlo-ta, Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition, and Hinemlo' Familia Org.

In Guam, at least 1,800 individuals took part in the same study.

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**DPL***From Page 1*

homestead development.

The clearing has caused public outcry within the last week as Ampro, a hazardous material company, worked to clear 62 hectares of land to be able to dig out the weapons.

[DPL Secretary John S. Del Rosario] mentioned very clearly that after this cleanup is completed, then let the leadership decide what they want to do with this site—proceed with homestead development, depending on money, how available the money is, because it will require several millions of dollars to do this, which we don't have. Or it can be a national park," said Franz Reksid, the Brownfields project manager for DPL.

With no infrastructure in the area, millions of dollars would need to be invested for water, power, sewer and roads. The area is large enough to develop approximately 500 homesteads. There are more than 3,000 applicants on Saipan currently waiting for their lot assignments.

"Right now there is no immediate plan to do subdivisions for homesteads. There was a plan in the past," Reksid said.

The Environmental Protection Agency awarded DPL a Brownfields grant a few years ago to assess and clean up the site. When the agency was awarded the first portion of the grant in 2006, DPL Finance Director David Atalig said they were eyeing the area for more than 400 homesteads, and hopeful it could be another area like Kagman.

The Marpi Point Village Homestead Development was part of a master plan developed by an outside contractor years ago, Reksid said. The contractor surveyed all the available areas to build commercial or homestead facilities.

The unexploded ordnance was discovered about five years ago, when the area was being surveyed for development, Reksid said. That's why the biological assessment conducted on the area includes Marpi Point Village Homestead Development in the title.

**60TH***From Page 1*

available for public viewing, borrowing or sale, even as the CNMI is now preparing for the 65th commemoration of the Battle of Saipan.

At the same time, two veterans living in the U.S. mainland—Gary Boothe and Dr. Ted Palmer, a Korean War veteran—have been asking for help finding copies of a documentary based on the “filming” of a June 14, 2004 “campfire chat,” which they describe as one of the most moving events of the commemoration activities.

“Nearly five years have passed since the 60th anniversary commemoration, yet no one that I and others know seems to have any idea as to whether a video of the campfire chat exists anywhere but remains unavailable for some reason—or was ever been compiled and otherwise prepared in the first place,” said Palmer, who came to Saipan in 2004 for the 60th commemoration activities.

Jerry Facey, co-chair of the 60th Anniversary Steering Committee, is currently off island. When asked about the June 2004 documentary and a campfire chat footage/documentary, he said he already replied to Boothe.

Boothe shared with *Saipan Tribune* a

“This area was proposed for homesteads several years ago, but when things were found, that plan and project was stopped,” Reksid said. “And there was no money to immediately launch this project to clean up until we received a Brownfields grant.”

When asked to view the master plan, Reksid said there are very few copies and he does not have one. He would need to speak to DPL's legal counsel and try to obtain a copy, he added.

Public meetings on the excavation of the unexploded ordnance were held a few years ago, but only one person showed up, said John Scott, president of Ampro.

Reksid assured the crowd gathered there would be public meetings for any future homestead development.

Zoning laws do not pertain to the master plan, but a representative from Zoning yesterday said DPL would need to apply for permits for any future development on the land. Reksid said the agency is looking at altering the master plan, taking into consideration changes and new zoning regulations.

A group of lawmakers also toured the site yesterday. House Speaker Arnold Palacios, Rep. Tina Sablan and Rep. Ralph DLG Torres met with Scott and Jim Collier of the Division of Environmental Quality.

So far, the legislators were told, 10 to 14 hectares have been cleared, which will be revegetated. In phase two, the adjacent parcels will be cleared.

“So it won't be one massive clearance like what we see in the first phase,” Sablan said.

Everyone agreed more public outreach is necessary, so people understand the intent of the ordnance removal, she said.

“At a minimum, there should be a posting of a sign that explains the effort and provides contact info if people want more info, posting the [unexploded ordnance] removal work plan on the DPL Web site, and making related plans and assessments readily available online,” the representative said.

But, she added, this had been a healthy debate among members of the commu-

copy of Facey's letter, which indicated that Facey also did not have a copy of the campfire chat's footage. Facey has yet to reply to *Tribune* questions about the whole 60th commemoration documentary.

**Rainy campfire night**

Butch Wolf, who put together the NMC film students to take footage of the 60th commemoration activities and owner of Talk Story Studios, which was contracted by the steering committee to assemble a “final” video, said the footages taken of the campfire chat were “a wash” and were technically impossible to be made part of a documentary because it was raining so hard that night.

He cited, for example, that the rain made it difficult for the lighting to work properly, people were under canopies, and participants didn't use the microphones all the time.

James Deleon Guerrero, one of the NMC students who took the footages, separately said the campfire chat happened on a rainy night.

Wolf, however, said a documentary of the 60th commemoration was produced out of the edited videos taken by NMC students. He said all the completed videos were turned over to the Arizona Memorial Museum Association, which operates the American Memorial Park on Saipan, and that the docu-

nity. It shows community members care about an important part of the island.

**Restore area**

Ampro is expected to work on the project for the next nine months. The area will be reseeded after the cleanup.

Reksid said an agreement between DPL and U.S. Fish and Wildlife states that DPL will maintain the grass “in a nice, groomed manner,” the project manager said.

It shouldn't be overgrown, he added.

“We want it to be nicely groomed, so anyone who wants to have a picnic here or fly a kite can come here,” Reksid said.

Asked where the money for that would come from, he said: “Well, DPL and the Legislature and the governor will have to work on that.”

Jack Hardy, one of the people in attendance, said he thinks a lot of fact finding still needs to be done and loose ends, like whether proper procedures were followed and permits and licenses obtained, need to be tied up.

“Even if things were done correctly, if there's no money to go to the next step, this was not necessarily a good move,” he added.

**Concentrated site**

Scott, the president of Ampro, said in all his years of work, the Marpi area is the most heavily concentrated area of unexploded ordnance he's seen.

The U.S. military used the area immediately after the capture of Saipan during World War II. It was used to store thousands of tons of ordnance for the impending invasion of the Japanese mainland. In the 1950s, the U.S. Army attempted to dispose of the munitions by blowing them up in place, but it was only partly successful, leaving the area with unexploded ordnance, according to the biological assessment of the area.

In the 1960s, a cleanup operation was undertaken and 4,000 tons of hazardous materials were collected and disposed of. Conservative estimates say less than half the ordnance present was removed. Present ordnance includes projectiles, hand grenades and mortar rounds.

**RYDLYME***From Page 1*

During direct examination by assistant U.S. attorney Eric O'Malley, Lizama said most of the Rydlyme was used to clean the floor after the chemical ate up or damaged certain power plant equipment on Saipan.

Lizama retired from CUC in 2000. He served as water treatment supervisor at CUC's power generation division for five years.

The witness said the first time he saw Rydlyme was in 1998 when the product arrived at the power plant in two kinds of containers. Lizama said he did not make a request for the chemical.

Lizama said he didn't know about Rydlyme and they only got to use the chemical a couple of months later, when William J. Powell came to the power plant.

Powell is from Rydlyme Pacific Inc. in Hawaii, the distributor of Ry-

dlyme for ISLA Marianas Sales and Blue Pacific.

James Santos owns ISLA, while his wife, Joaquina, owns Blue Pacific. The husband-and-wife couple are co-defendants of Villagomez.

Lizama recalled that Powell entered the conference room, took a glass of Rydlyme, and put a certain amount of the chemical on a penny. He said Rydlyme appeared to remove the copper-like color of the penny.

Despite the demonstration, Lizama said he was not convinced that CUC should use Rydlyme on the power engines.

Lizama said they actually tried Rydlyme once, but the mechanic complained that it damaged certain equipment in the power plant. After that, they never used Rydlyme, Lizama said, adding that he saw some staff using the chemical to clean the floor.

He agreed with O'Malley that more gallons of Rydlyme arrived at the pow-

**See RYDLYME on Next Page**

**99 CENTS***From Page 1*

education and outreach for employers and workers, to address this issue and ensure that this trend changes,” said Timothy Riera, the EEOC Honolulu Local Director, whose office oversees the CNMI.

The EEOC's suit against 99 Cents Supermarkets Inc., Yun's Corp., and Townhouse Inc., which own and operate various grocery markets on Saipan, charged that female cashiers were sexually harassed by a supervisor in the form of unwelcome touching (including slapping and spanking), the touching of private parts, lifting of female employees' skirts and repeated lewd demands.

Despite several complaints, the employer's management failed to take prompt corrective action.

In addition, the employment contracts of two of the female cashiers were not renewed because of their pregnancy.

The consent decree settling the suit provides \$80,000 in damages to six women who were subjected to a sexually hostile work environment at the supermarket chain on Saipan.

The decree also requires the company to take steps to ensure that harassment does not continue at the supermarket and the revision of its personnel policies and practices, training of personnel, the hiring of an equal employment opportunity consultant, and the posting of the terms of the decree at all of the defendant's facilities.

“Employers need to know there is no exception under federal employment law because of the individual's immigration status or not being U.S. citizens, as was the case here,” said EEOC Regional Attorney Anna Park. “Employers need to be proactive in dealing with discrimination complaints made by their employees before the commission is forced to intervene as we had to do in this case.”

**(Saipan Tribune)**

copy of it.

They both attended the campfire chat. Palmer said he watched the filming from the front row of the grandstand benches, and the audience was given the impression that a resulting video would eventually become available for personal use and for sharing with family and friends and veterans.

During the campfire chat, veterans of the 1944 Marianas campaign spoke of their experiences during the war and their present feelings about it. “In all, the campfire chat was an extraordinary and moving event,” said Palmer, who lives in Sacramento, California.

On page 40 of the official Commemorative Program booklet, the steering committee said they will establish two archival oral history projects to be conducted from June 12 to 17, 2004. Together, they were called the oral history and story telling project.

“For the veterans and others, one of the 60th anniversary's most memorable and poignant events was the ‘campfire chat’ that took place on the evening of June 14 [2004] in the American Memorial Park,” Palmer told *Saipan Tribune*.

“However all this may eventually turn out, and whenever that may be, Gary Boothe and I hope many veterans and others will attend the 65th anniversary this June,” he added.

**Raw footage**

Only the CNMI Council for the Humanities has copies of the raw, unedited footages of the commemoration activities, contained in seven six-hour VHS tapes.

The Council for the Humanities awarded a grant to the 60th commemoration committee for the filming of the June 2004 activities, said Scott Russell, acting executive director/program officer.

“The Council has no plans to edit the tapes or to make a documentary using them. We will have VHS tapes converted to DVD format and will ensure that copies are made available to interested individuals and to local and regional repositories,” Russell said.

**Searching for over a year**

For well over a year, Palmer and fellow veteran Gary M. Boothe, who spent several of his boyhood years living on Saipan, have been trying to locate a video of the campfire chat and determine if one ever existed. If it did, they want to know how to obtain a

**RYDLYME**

From Page 4

er plant, although he did not ask for the product.

Lizama said they later used Rydlyme after Powell came again to the power plant to flush radiators in engines one to eight.

During questioning by Vilagomez's counsel, David J. Lujan, the retired CUC employee said they used to use a Japanese chemical before Rydlyme. At the time, they had a water chemical engineer under contract with CUC, he said.

"The engineer knows chemical but he disagrees with Rydlyme," Lizama said.

When shown a document, Lizama recognized it as a request voucher dated June 9, 1998, to purchase 2,000 gallons of Rydlyme for the power plant's cooling system.

Lizama said it was Joaquin "Jack" Cruz of CUC's Procurement and Supply Section who prepared the request voucher, also called acquisition justification.

He agreed with Lujan that at the time, he had two bosses in the Power Generation Division —William Borja and "the real big boss" Jose S. Demapan.

The witness agreed that Demapan can make the request to purchase Rydlyme but he pointed out

that the water treatment section is the that who is supposed to make the request and not Demapan.

Shown a document, Lizama recognized it as an acquisition justification for 1,100 gallons of Rydlyme dated June 3, 1999. He said it was the acting manager for power generation, William Borja, who requested the voucher and that it was Cruz who prepared it.

Lizama identified another acquisition justification for 2,000 gallons of Rydlyme as requested by Demapan and prepared by Cruz. Lizama told Lujan it was the first time he saw the document.

He agreed with Lujan that he was not involved in the requisition for Rydlyme and how the product was ordered by CUC.

**Other witness**

Tinian Telesource's Barr said he

has been involved with the Tinian power plant since 1987.

Telesource runs the new CUC power plant on Tinian. The old CUC power plant was shut down after the new power plant was put online in February 1999.

Barr said he was working for CUC as its power plant manager for Tinian in 1998 when he became aware of the shipment of Rydlyme to their island. Barr said he was not aware if there was any request from the Tinian power plant to have the product.

Barr said they never used Rydlyme because their power engines at the time were relatively new.

He agreed with Lujan during cross-examination that when

the Rydlyme arrived on Tinian, it was not accompanied with documentation.

Barr said he told his then assistant manager, Jess Cruz, that if they don't need the chemical they should ship them back to Saipan.

He agreed with Lujan that Cruz may have known about the Rydlyme delivery because Cruz was overseeing the old power plant.

**Disposed of**

Tinian Telesource's Viches, the former power plant operator for Tinian, said he saw drums of Rydlyme arrive at the power plant either in 1998 or 1999 and that they were eventually stored in the warehouse in the old power plant.

"I don't know who requested [the chemical], I was only the

operator," he said.

After several years, some of the Rydlyme were disposed of around 2004, Viches said.

He said they emptied the Rydlyme drums and the liquid was mixed with water and either thrown to the ground or put in the used oil storage for shipment to Guam.

Viches said it was then CUC resident director Greg Castro who ordered the disposal of the Rydlyme.

After completing his cross-examination, Lujan huddled for about a minute with lawyers Ramon Quichoco and Victorino Torres, counsel of Joaquina Santos and James Santos respectively. Quichoco and Torres then told the court that they have no questions for Viches.

**Change order**

CUC purchasing specialist

Cepeda testified that he saw maintenance workers using Rydlyme to clean the floor in the incinerator area.

When asked by O'Malley if he saw Rydlyme being used to clean the radiators at the power plant, Cepeda replied, "No, sir."

Cepeda said that in 2007 power generation manager Almondo Santos instructed him to prepare the papers to request the purchase Rydlyme.

Shown a document by O'Malley dated Sept. 11, 2007, the witness recognized his handwriting on the request voucher in which, as instructed by Santos, he changed the quantity of Rydlyme to be bought.

From 10 drums as indicated in the voucher, he said he increased it to 20 drums after Santos came to his office and instructed him to do so.

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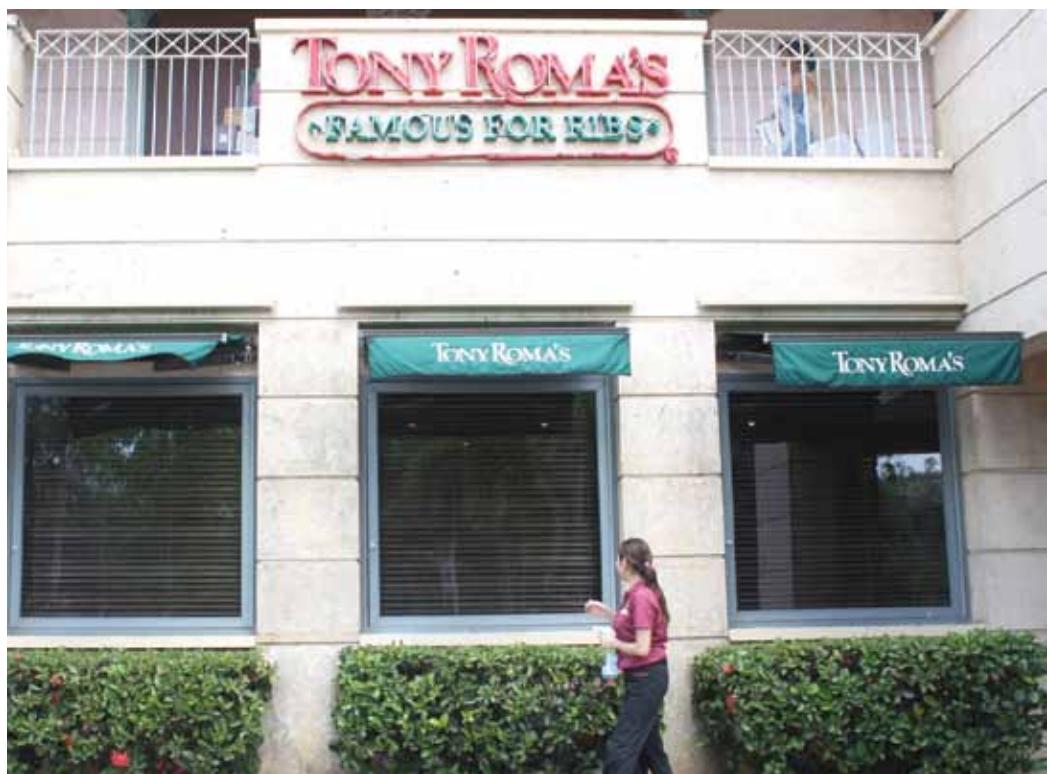
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# Triple J now owns Tony Roma's and Capricciosa



By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Triple J Saipan Inc. has achieved another milestone after it acquired majority ownership of the famous Tony Roma's and Capricciosa restaurants in the tourist district of Garapan.

Robert H. Jones, president and chief executive officer of Triple J Enterprises Inc., yesterday said they now own 80.5 percent of the two restaurants, while WDI International vice president Darren Talai now

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
An employee cleans the glass windows of the famous Tony Roma's and Capricciosa restaurants in Garapan, which are now 80.5 percent owned by Triple J Saipan. The company also operates the Vietnamese restaurant Truong's in Susupe.

ON THE NET  
[www.triplej.net](http://www.triplej.net)

owns 19.5 percent.

Triple J used to own only 20 percent of the two restaurants on Saipan, while WDI International Inc., a subsidiary of WDI Corporation, used to have majority ownership.

Jones said WDI Saipan is now a subsidiary of Triple J Saipan.

In an interview, Jones said they saw an opportunity in having majority ownership of Tony Roma's and Capricciosa.

"They made some decisions...and so they contacted us and asked if we have interest in taking over Tony Roma's and Capricciosa. We don't want to see it closed; they don't want to see it closed. It was an opportunity for us to step in. We cut certain costs but we kept all the employees," he said.

The restaurant ownership change took effect on Jan. 30, 2009, but it was kept low profile.

Triple J Saipan's investment with the two restaurants is at around \$450,000, which is less than the initial investment on the same business five years ago, Jones added.

Tony Roma's and Capricciosa are the second and third restaurants on Saipan owned by Triple J, following the Vietnamese restaurant Truong's in Susupe.

Triple J has strong faith in

the local economy, and calls on other businesses to grab the opportunities available to them.

"I think the economy on Saipan is at the bottom now but it will get start getting better a year from now as long as we don't lose our tourists from China, Russia, Japan, Korea...I encourage everyone to invest in the opportunities that are available to them and let's grow our way out of this economic crisis," he said.

Triple J Saipan Inc. is one of the companies under Triple J Enterprises Inc., which now has over 700 employees throughout the Pacific and has consistently

ranked as one of the top companies in Micronesia. It has offices and businesses on Saipan; Guam; Palau; Majuro; Ebeye; Oakland, California; Shanghai, China; and Hakuba, Japan.

The associated companies include Triple J Motors, Triple J Five Star Wholesale Foods, Triple J Retail Stores, Triple J Merchant Services, Triple J 24-Hour Mini-Mart, WDI Restaurants, Outback Steakhouse on Guam, Neco Plaza Corp. in Palau, Hertz Auto Rental in Saipan/Guam/Micronesia, Triple J Real Estate & Consulting, Triple J Exports in Shanghai, China, and JJJ Apricot Ski Hotel in Hakuba, Japan.

For more information about Triple J, visit their website at [www.triplej.net](http://www.triplej.net).

## Delay in Tinian doctor's salary was due to 'technical problem'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The delay in the release of the salary of the lone medical doctor on Tinian, Dr. Priyantha Wijayagunaratne, was caused by a technical problem that occurred during the processing of his papers, according to press secretary Charles Reyes Jr. yesterday.

The doctor, who has been with the Tinian Health Center for four months, has reportedly not been paid since he started in his new assignment on the island.

"I understand there were certain technical or procedural problems with the processing of the employment contract," Reyes told *Saipan Tribune*.

But he said, the matter has since been resolved. "I was told an employment contract is now being properly routed to address the issue."

Dr. Wijayagunaratne yesterday said the issue is now a "done deal" and is resolved. He said the document is now on "its way to being signed."

He declined to disclose the amount owed him.

The doctor clarified, though, that he is owed just about three months' salary—not four as initially reported.

"Like what I said...situation like this happens sometimes," he told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that he is not making a big deal of the matter. "I understand how contracts are being processed...and so this is one."



Wijayagunaratne

Dr. Wijayagunaratne is the only medical doctor assigned at THC. He is being helped by three other service providers to attend to walk-in clients on Tinian.

The Tinian clinic's management had inquired with OMB why the authorization for the doctor's salary was being held up.

The Tinian Legislative Delegation, through Sen. Joseph Mendiola, earlier vowed to help address the problem. He said delaying the salary of their only doctor is not acceptable and may risk losing the professional's services.

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# Labor issues new form for transfer alien workers

By KRISTI EATON  
kristi\_eaton@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Foreign workers seeking to transfer jobs will now be required to sign a form, showing they understand they are responsible for repatriation and medical expenses if the previous employer goes out of business during the transfer process.

## Inbound commodities fall 22 percent in 6 months

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority posted a significant drop in the volume of inbound commodities that went through the Saipan seaport during the first six months of the current fiscal year.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that from October last year to March 2009, the revenue tonnage of cargo that entered the island's port totaled only 153,492 compared to 196,550 revenue tons during the same period last fiscal year.

Port of Saipan manager MaryAnn Q. Lizama said the difference translates to a 22-percent decline in volume of inbound cargoes.

The last fiscal year's total revenue tons in six months were computed based on the "old rate" of \$6 per revenue ton charged by the ports authority. This year, a new tariff rate

The Department of Labor issued the new form this week.

The policy is not new, but the agreement is a reminder to workers their former employer may go out of business while they are looking to transfer jobs. If that is the case, the worker must cover any repatriation or medical expenses. Repatriation expenses are only incurred if the

worker decides to return to their native country.

"We allow some extra time to transfer in cases where the worker has good prospects for employment in the Commonwealth but has not yet quite completed the employment arrangements," said DOL Deputy Secretary Jacinta M. Kaipat in a statement. "If a worker asks

of \$11.40 per revenue ton was implemented by the agency to help address the bond indenture provisions.

Lizama said the 22-percent loss in the first six months is a result of the current economic downturn on the island. In March 2009 alone, Saipan seaport received a total of 27,446 revenue tonnage, which indicated a 17-percent loss from figures in March 2008 of 33,222 revenue tons.

"A major factor is the current state of the economy. It impacts the way people spend nowadays because it's more of a need and not a want for consumers," Lizama told *Saipan Tribune*, although she expressed hope the economy would turn around soon.

The CPA board implemented a 90-percent increase in tariff rates in January this year.

Despite the hike, Lizama said seaports stakeholders remain committed to working with

CPA. "Our stakeholders have been very receptive and have been very supportive of CPA's situation," she said.

These stakeholders include Saipan Shipping, Saipan Stevedore, CTSI, Ambyth, Seabridge, Mobil, Shell, Hanson Cement, Inchcape, to name a few.

Lizama said they are slated to review and assess the impact of the new tariff rates soon.

Tariff rates were increased by 5 only percent in 2007.

"The increase was long overdue... and it will help stabilize our responsibilities," Lizama said, adding that even though there was an increase in the rates, the revenue tonnage accommodated at the ports is either the same or less.

Citing the need to enforce more cost-saving measures, Lizama said the Port of Saipan is functioning with a nominal work force and has, in fact, reduced its employees from 20 at one time to only 11 at present.

us for extra time, and there is good reason to give a little extra time, then we want the worker to understand the risk that the former employer might become insolvent. That risk means that the worker may have to meet repatriation and medical expenses for themselves. There might be no former employer there to meet these expenses."

Labor has had a few instances where an employer, who was responsible for repatriating a worker, went out of business while the worker was attempting to transfer, the statement said. Later, when the worker could not find a job and decided to leave the Commonwealth, there was no employer to pay for repatriation.

"We are not making any different rules," Kaipat said. "The last employer of record is always responsible for repatriation expenses. We are just ex-

plaining the practicalities of our current economic circumstances. When a worker decides to remain in the Commonwealth and transfer to a new employer, then there could be a risk attached to that decision. We do not think the risk is very great, but in the interests of fairness, we just explained our policy about who should bear this risk."

The policy protects the Commonwealth's taxpayers from any costs associated with repatriated foreign employees, the statement said.

Kaipat said foreign worker groups were consulted about how to allocate the risk.

"The Department has always emphasized that we cannot ask the taxpayers of the Commonwealth to pay for employment risks. The Department does not regard these situations as presenting a significant risk; however, in hard economic times, any risk is important. The documentation that will be required by the De-

partment is similar to documentation as to financial resources required by Immigration," she said.

Gov. Benigno Fitial said he commends the Department for "implementing a policy to educate workers and reduce financial liabilities to the CNMI government."

Moreover, Fitial said he appreciates the work Labor has made over the past three years, citing the agency's establishment of a website and automated processing, as well as the department's clearance of a backlog of old labor cases.

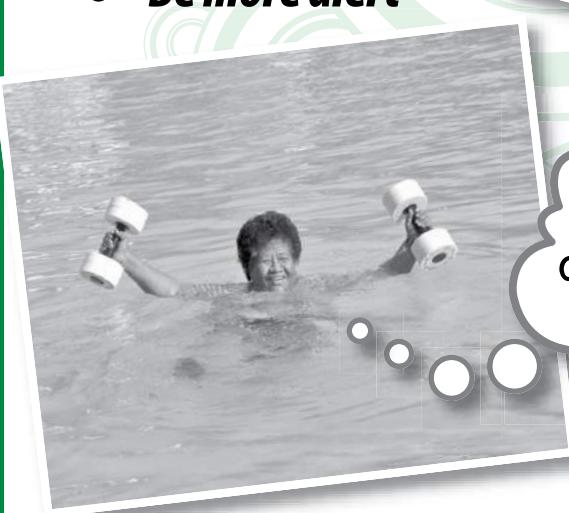
"I am especially pleased with our Labor Department's amazing handling of the massive repatriation of garment factory workers after the industry collapsed," the governor said in the statement. "Labor effectively handled many thousands of labor cases, transfers, and repatriations, which could have easily been a disaster for a less capable Labor Department."



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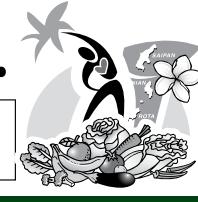
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# Committee ratchets up preps for MMAC

The 2009 Marianas March Against Cancer Committee is gearing up for what promises to be a fun-filled event to be held on May 22-23, 2009, from 6pm to 6am, at the Hopwood Junior High School field in Chalan Piao.

The 2008 MMAC was able to raise over \$71,000 and organizers are hoping to raise even more funds this year as the battle against cancer intensifies.

The following teams have already submitted their payments to join the march: Bodig, Marriage Encounter, Grace Christian Academy, Take Care/FHP,

IT&E/Saipan Southern High School, TSA Guardians, Pacific Islands Club, Marianas Health Services and Bank of Guam/Garapan Elementary School.

The deadline to submit registration requirements is Friday, April 24, 2009.

The MMAC Committee is encouraging the public to purchase Delta/Northwest Airlines raffle tickets for only \$5 each. Prizes up for grabs include a roundtrip ticket to the U.S., a roundtrip ticket to Asia plus other great prizes from Delta/Northwest Airlines.

At the 2009 MMAC, teams

will be competing for the best baton, most team spirit, best tent design, most money raised, most laps run, most luminaries sold, among other things. There are four categories in which teams will compete: *Puti'on* (corporate), *Pulan* (family), *At-dao* (NGO/Government) and *Napu* (school).

Cancer is one of the leading causes of death in the Northern Mariana Islands and the 2009 MMAC Committee is inviting the entire community to help support their efforts in raising much needed funds for the battle against cancer. All funds

raised are applied locally.

If any individual, company or organization is interested in forming a team, becoming a sponsor, volunteering in the 2009 MMAC Committee or participating in any way possible, contact Reina Camacho at [reinacamacho@gmail.com](mailto:reinacamacho@gmail.com), Chris A. Concepcion at [chrisconcepcion@gmail.com](mailto:chrisconcepcion@gmail.com), Catherine Attao at [attao20@yahoo.com](mailto:attao20@yahoo.com) or 2009 Overall MMAC chair David Rosario at [dahbit@hotmail.com](mailto:dahbit@hotmail.com). You may also contact Joanne Ogo at 236-8728 or [joanne.ogo@gmail.com](mailto:joanne.ogo@gmail.com). (PR)

## Beautify CNMI looking for award nominations

The committee chairs of Beautify CNMI are seeking nominations for their annual Beautify CNMI Steward and Beautify CNMI Champion awards. The two awards will be given out at the end of April.

The awards are given out to recognize the individuals or groups who have been environmental leaders during the past 12 months.

There are two award categories: the Environmental Steward and the Environmental Champion.

The Environmental Steward award recognizes a person or group that leads the community in activities that help protect the environment in a variety of ways. This individual or group has demonstrated the need to take pride in the islands and to take care of the place they call home. They serve as an example for others, especially the

next generation, to follow.

According to Beautify CNMI volunteer Angelo Villagomez, "the Steward Award winners are the backbone of Beautify CNMI. These are the people that volunteer their time every single weekend to improve our environment and our islands."

The Environmental Champion award recognizes a person or group that exemplifies the Beautify CNMI spirit. Those qualities include volunteerism, cooperation, innovation, creativity and the ability to infect others with the Beauty Virus. The Environmental Champion is a role model for others to follow. They bring environmental issues to the forefront of public consciousness. They make things happen and effect change.

"The Champion Award win-

ners are the environmental leaders on Saipan," explained Beautify CNMI founder Cinta M. Kaipat.

The 2007 Environmental Champion winners were PSS teacher Bree Reynolds, MINA board member Kathy Yuknavage, and local activist Captain Carl Brachear. The winners of the 2007 Environmental Steward award were elementary school student Adam Sablan and volunteer group Friends of the Mariana Islands.

The 2008 Environmental Champion winners were Nava Khorram, Marites Castillo of Friends of the Mariana Islands, Katie Busenkell of PAWS, Mike Tripp of Marianas Dive, and Aqua Resort Club. The winners of the 2008 Environmental Steward award were Friends of

the Marianas Islands, Marianas Dive, Paseo de Marianas Promoters and Max Aguon and the Pantalon Boys.

To nominate an individual or group, submit a written nomination explaining why that person or group deserves recognition. You can make as many nominations as you like, but individuals and groups can only be nominated for one award category. Nominations must include the award category the nominee is being considered for, a well written argument detailing the reasons why this nominee should be considered, and contact information for the nominee and for the person making the nomination.

Send nominations to Angelo Villagomez at [angelovillagomez@gmail.com](mailto:angelovillagomez@gmail.com) or mail them to

PMB 360 BOX 10001; Saipan,

MP 96950 or call 285-6462 for

more information. (PR)

## Transpacific Int'l maintains support to Mathcounts

Despite the local staging of Mathcounts being held in abeyance, regular supporter, Transpacific International Inc. is upbeat that it will be revived in the near future.

Making a \$1,000 donation to Mathcounts recently, Marcos Fong said, "We're sad to see that the program is going to be halted. But we're happy that it is just a halt and it may be restarted soon."

Fong, the group executive vice president for the group of companies composed of Coca-Cola Beverage Company (Micronesia), Inc., Subway Investments Corp., Foremost Foods Saipan, Glimpses of Saipan, and Foremost Scoops, said that Transpacific International has always been supportive of educational programs such as Mathcounts.

Transpacific International Inc. has been a major sponsor of the Northern Mariana Islands math competition for so many years.

Fong expressed optimism that the competition will be revived, saying, "We hope that Mathcounts will grow even bigger when it gets back."

Efrain F. Camacho, president, EFC Engineers and Architects and organizer of the yearly math



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Transpacific International Inc. group executive vice president Marcos W. Fong, left, hands out the \$1,000 donation to Efrain F. Camacho, Mathcounts organizer and president of EFC Engineers & Architects. The TII Group is a proud sponsor of the annual Mathcounts competition.

competition, accepted the donation on behalf of Mathcounts.

The organization said that the NMI chapter Mathcounts competition will be put on hold only briefly. "Once we reopen our engineering firm, in a year or so, we will start Mathcounts again," Camacho said.

As for those who are disappointed to see the competition put on hold, Camacho had this to say, "Continue to study because we will be back in about a

year. Just continue studying and look for us."

Camacho has high hopes for the prospects of the four students who will represent the NMI delegates at the Mathcounts national competition. "We're excited to send the kids and their coach to Florida. We're now making arrangements with Northwest Airlines. We're all set to go."

The four NMI Mathcounts delegates include Ji Hoon Choi and Jang Min Jeong of Calvary

Christian Academy; Jun Hyeon Joon of Saipan International School; and Oh Hye Young of Marianas Baptist Academy. The students will be accompanied by coach Valerie Pritchard.

EFC Engineers & Architects held the 16th Mathcounts competition on March 7 this year at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. The national math competition will be held on May 7 to 10 at Disney World Swan & Dolphin Hotel in Orlando, Florida. (PR)

## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

April 10, 2000

### Ex-Tinian mayor enters guilty plea

Former Tinian Mayor James Masga Mendiola on Friday pleaded guilty in the U.S. District Court in connection with cattle rustling in his island municipality just three days before a second jury trial was to resume on the case. He entered into a plea agreement with federal government prosecutors on a misdemeanor charge of conspiracy to conceal goods within the special maritime and territorial jurisdiction of the United States. This carries lighter penalties than the felony offense contained in the indictment filed with the federal court in November, which was tried last February. The trial ended in a hung jury after the jurors failed to reach a unanimous verdict.

### Torres hits chief justice for clearing Bellas

Saying he is disappointed but not surprised, Rep. Stanley T. Torres on Friday lambasted the decision by Supreme Court Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan not to pursue his charges of misconduct and improprieties against one of the judges. "It seems like judges and lawyers often protect each other and there's very little other people can do about it," he said in his letter to the SC chief, reacting to the decision. Justice Demapan last week cleared Associate Judge Timothy H. Bellas of the allegations in a complaint filed by the representative in November, noting that there was no sufficient evidence to conduct an investigation on the case.

April 10, 2001

### Power shortage looms

Overall efforts by the CNMI government to lure more investors in the Northern Marianas could be in vain due to a looming power shortage caused by the virtually shelved 60 megawatt power plant project on Saipan. Government officials raised this alarm yesterday after reports claimed Enron has decided to pull out from the multi-million project which would have paved the road for a new 60-MW power plant on Saipan. Due to the possible delay in the construction of the power grid, foreign and local investors wishing to put up businesses here are faced with higher costs since they will have to put up their own power source.

### NMIRF demands payment of \$40M from CNMI govt

The Northern Marianas Retirement Fund will launch an aggressive step to collect the Commonwealth government's unpaid contributions that have ballooned to about \$40 million. Fund Board Chair Vicente Camacho said the government's continued refusal to settle its financial obligation has, in fact, resulted to multi-million revenue losses in several potential investments abroad. Mr. Camacho said this prompted NMIRF administration to demand immediate payment of the government's unpaid obligations, in order to help the agency carry out its various programs and off-island investments.

April 10, 2002

### Redrum suspect's conviction upheld

The Supreme Court junked Monday an appeal seeking a reversal of Jesse James B. Camacho's first degree murder conviction and 45-year jail sentence in the slaying of a Dandan boy last April 30, 1998—once dubbed as the Commonwealth's most serious crime. The three-member appellate panel of Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan and Associate Justices John A. Mangloña and Alejandro C. Castro affirmed the trial court's 1999 ruling that found that Camacho ordered his "Redrum" gang co-member to stab the victim with a knife. Last month, Camacho was ordered by Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman to serve three more years behind bars, after he was found guilty of bolting out of prison.

### Theme park needs more land

The Pacific Castle Park and Family Entertainment is working with the Office of the Public Lands for the acquisition of additional four hectares of land in Koblerville that would complete the construction of the multi-entertainment complex. Pacific Castle Park owner and operator Bob Starr yesterday disclosed that he will be infusing an estimated \$20 million in fresh investments to complete the entertainment and recreational complex. Starr, who acquired the former Island Castle in November 2001, has conceptualized the project for the past seven years in hopes to provide the CNMI its own recreational facility that would not only lure the tourists to the island, but one that would allow local families to gather anytime they want.

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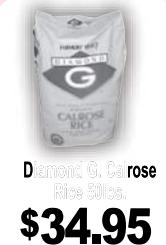
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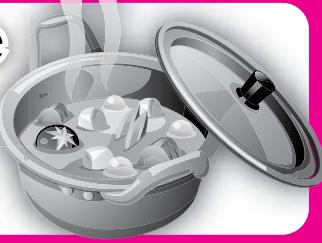
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# Opinion

## Saipan Tribune

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## EDITORIAL

### Confused on North Korea

The defining characteristic of U.S. policy toward North Korea—incoherence—doesn't seem to have changed much as the Bush administration has given way to that of Barack Obama. On Sunday, Mr. Obama treated North Korea's launch of an intercontinental missile like an emergency: Woken in Prague at 4:30 a.m. by his aides, he sternly declared that "rules must be binding" and "violations must be punished," and dispatched his U.N. ambassador to seek an immediate resolution from the Security Council.

The council, however, quickly balked at sanctioning the regime of Kim Jong Il—and understandably so. Just two days before the much-expected missile test, Mr. Obama's special envoy for North Korea, Stephen W. Bosworth, had publicly declared that "pressure is not the most productive line of approach" in dealing with the North. "After the dust of the missile settles a bit," he said, the administration's priority would be persuading Pyongyang to return to negotiations regarding its nuclear program.

Mr. Bosworth offered to go to Pyongyang "whenever it appears to be useful" to conduct bilateral talks—something the regime has always craved. And he promised "incentives": "I think there are things that we can provide and do that the North Koreans would find positive," he told reporters.

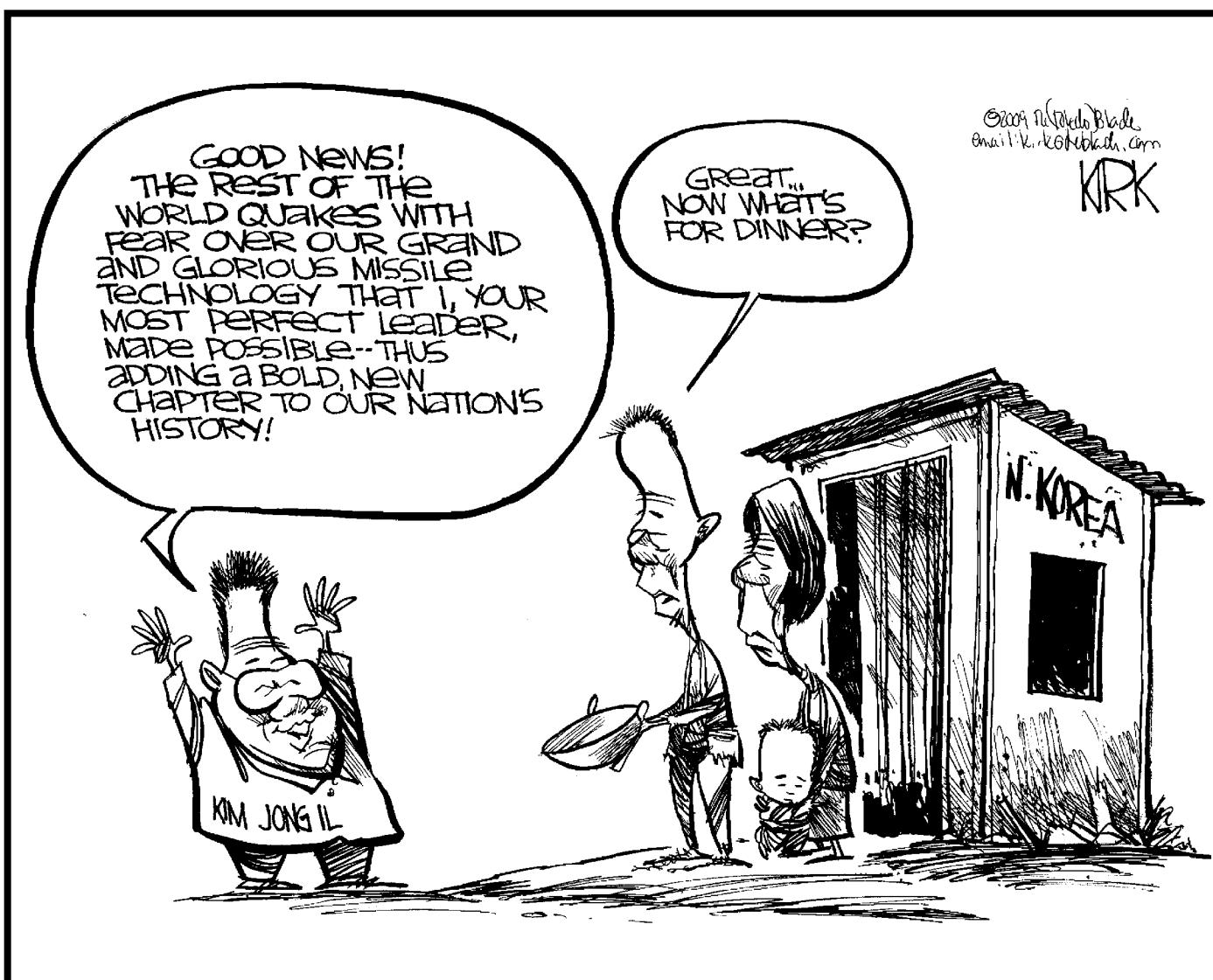
Now, it's true that Mr. Bosworth said he thought there also should be "consequences" for the missile test and that U.S. policy should "combine pressure with incentives." But it's hardly surprising, given his statements, that China and Russia would resist new sanctions—or that North Korea would have fired the missile in spite of U.S. warnings. Why listen to such warnings, when the administration has already made clear that its main response will be to offer more diplomatic attention, sweetened with "incentives"—in other words, exactly what Mr. Kim was seeking?

The Bush administration tried isolating and pressuring North Korea, then turned to bribe-laden negotiations. Neither approach succeeded in changing the behavior of the regime, which continued to share its nuclear know-how with other rogue states while retaining its probable arsenal of bombs. Mr. Bosworth sounds surprisingly sure that he can break this pattern. "I'm quite confident that with some intense negotiating and diplomatic activity," North Korea's refusal to allow the verification of its plutonium stockpile can be overcome, he said.

Mr. Obama seems to believe that he can increase the pressure on Pyongyang through the reinvigorated global nonproliferation policy he announced in Prague. The measures he proposed are worthy and needed—such as a new effort to control loose nuclear materials, a ban on the creation of new fissile material for weapons and the creation of an international fuel bank to supply nuclear reactors.

Still, it doesn't seem likely that either the North Korean or Iranian regimes will be swayed by these policies. Such concessions as have been extracted from Mr. Kim in the past have followed tough steps by the United States and China, above all the squeezing of the regime's foreign bank accounts. It's hard to believe that the Obama administration will make more progress than its predecessors without more consistency in administering that kind of medicine.

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### God, Christ, Holy Spirit, and Church

Holy Week in Christendom is a period when the world comes to a stand still. The sacredness of time and the sanctity of space are enjoined and profoundly celebrated.

I use here the devotional language of the faithful. Familiarity with metaphysics and its queen discipline, theology, were once the mark of a scholar and a learned person. In recent times, metaphysics has become the currency of the squawk box along the backwoods and the backwaters of our sanity, and theology the pretentious handmaiden of the obscurantist and the antagonist of the open mind.

And yet the four words in the title are code words that clamor for understanding. Of late, they have become benignly and justifiably ignored by a world immersed in historical awareness and sociological wisdom, where the common mind is a liberated creature of unflinching science and neutral technology. Is it possible to understand them without falling into the circuitous appeal of biblical metaphors, or the self-serving allure of devotional piety?

We give it a try. After all, the honorific word 'God' used to be a prominent icon in serious discourse, and in the solemn recitation of the oath of public office. With the collapse of Wall Street before the bailout and the stimulus package, pundits suggested that the phrase "In God We Trust" be replaced by the more accurate phrase, "In Greed we Thrust."

This week's series explores what sense these words might mean in sociological terms, and what reality they are pointing to that is recognizable in any clime and culture in the human realm.

#### G-O-D

We recall the comic incident when *Time* magazine printed for its cover in bold red-on-black the question, "Is God Dead?" The furor that followed saw cardinals and bishops up in arms in defense of their suddenly threatened theological underpinnings—as if God needed defending!

The word "God" is a recently coined European word that refers to a supreme or mighty power, appropriate in the medieval context of the feudal liege. It is the word used to translate the Semitic "el" as the primal force. YAH (YHWH) is the biblical term for the mysterious power that undergirds and defines all of life.

Now, before we quickly fall into the trap of abstraction, imagine a herder driving a camel in the desert, momentarily unmindful and temporarily oblivious of the immediate environment, and in receding into the recesses of his mind, the camel suddenly flops a cake of fresh do-do into his face. The primordial cry of "YAH!" naturally comes out as the outburst of surprise and rude awakening.

Demythologizing the word back to this kind of earthiness gives one the existential flavor of the experience of awe and wonder, of

By JAIME VERGARA  
Special to the Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.



the profound mystery of the ever-present unknown.

We all run into the limits of our existence. In the '60s, the youth phrased a query fraught with deep meaning: What are you up-against? It is in this up-against-ness that the significance of the word "God" made sense. The God who is rightfully dead in Christian atheism is the grandfather figure in the sky that monitors and assesses the state of human moral rectitude and civil order.

The overt and quiet railing against the heavens over the demise of the garment industry's golden goose came as an assault on revered ideology for some, and the comfort of well-padded pocketbooks for others. It is no surprise that one had called it the judgment of God!

When the authenticity of life awakens humans to the reality of finitude, of limits and untrustworthy dependencies, then the utterance of "YAH" might be painfully but liberatingly appropriate. Everyone longs for truth and knowledge but "more" only leads to added confusion and uncertainty; everyone clamors for an eternity of peace which only accents our experience of an eternity of struggle; everyone senses the demand of conscience but we resign to the ease of expediency or the haze of moral ambiguity. For all our yearnings comes a terminus of fulfillment. We are in our experience never satisfied.

When confronted by the awesome and the awe-full, humans had been known to flee from the threat of the unknown into the comfort of the unexamined commonplaces and familiar; or humans have been known to go into a defensive frenzy of fear-filled rhetoric and stoic belligerency, inventing ogres and monsters as enemies, as well as prop-up someone/something to blame for our miseries.

Religious understandings that remain accountable to the assessment of reality and not default into the authority of a person or the legal dictates of calcified writings, stand the chance of making an authentic relational choice to that mysterious power in the midst of life that frustrates every vestige of our human assertions and aggressions.

In a sense, Jew and gentile, religious and secular, believer and agnostic, we stand at every moment between what is no-longer and

See GOD on Page 11

**EDITORIAL POLICY**

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

## The economic shoe

Some people on Saipan, or at least who have some involvement with Saipan, are probably going to profit very nicely from the world's changing economic order. Overall, as the U.S. economy falls (more on that in a moment), the size of the world's economic pie will shrink. But, within that shrinking pie, some players will get growing slices. Saipan has some savvy people who are knowledgeable and experienced and connected in Asia, and that's where the action is going to be.

Let's take first things first, and I'll note I'm no bandwagon Bozo on this topic: I warned numerous times in this column, including a piece on Feb. 13, 2004, that the U.S. financial markets posed a dire risk.

I'd say I was a mighty rare voice back then, eh? Where were the others? Nowhere. And my logic was correct back then, so I'm not willing to abandon it now.

So it's you and me against the world, dear reader. Ain't life grand?

Anyway, here we are: Uncle Sam's economic problems haven't even started yet. Not in earnest, anyway. All we've seen thus far is mostly financial stuff; bonds, stocks, and mortgage paper.

But that's not the important story, believe it or not. After the financial shoe drops, the economic one will. That's the real story. For a lot of reasons, it is going to get harder, a lot harder, to manufacture, grow, sell, or distribute goods and services in the U.S. You can count on that.

As a result, the average American is going to wind up with a far lower standard of living than they expect.

That's not a "recession." It's a transition. Big difference.

It's going to be a stressful life for most people. The population

will spend more effort fighting each other (via the ballot box) for goods and services than they'll spend actually producing them. That's where all this is headed. Think Europe.

And let me interject this: I'm not objecting to any policies, politicians, or political programs. In fact, I don't think the government is the real driver behind all of this. We're merely up against the life-path of a mature economy, in which the terminal bureaucratization of everything, notably corporations, is inevitable.

In fact, the government, in many cases, is more competent than some large corporations. That's no violation of free market theory, it's merely a reality of structure: Managers run corporations, but shareholders merely vote for the directors who appoint the managers. These guys (directors and managers) all belong to the same country clubs, as did their daddies. Do you think the corporate barons lay awake at night in their mansions worrying about some dude holding 1000 pissant shares in common stock in his retirement account? Ha!

Overall, the go-to guy for the general situation is Joseph A. Schumpeter, who penned *Capitalism, Socialism and Democracy*. This isn't a text on economics, but it's more like, well, a big-picture parlor discourse. It's easy to read. There's no math. No formulas. No graphs. So anyone and everyone can follow it. I steer my pals, or any other interested parties, to Part II of this work, which (in my edition) is only 103 pages. Those pages are so ripe with wisdom and insight that my copy has been annotated and dog-eared to death.

OK, so much for America. And how about Asia? Well, for one

By **ED STEPHENS JR.**  
*Special to the Tribune*

*Ed Stephens Jr. is an economist and columnist for the Saipan Tribune. His column runs every Friday. Contact Ed via TropicalEd.com, or join him and other luminaries at SaipanBlog.com.*



thing, as U.S. productivity falls, and U.S. influence in Asia wanes, I'll pick a random item on my list, and mention that an Asian arms race is likely as Asian nations scramble to shore up their interests. There will be lots of money in that.

Furthermore, capital will flow from the U.S. to more productive economies, notably, Asia.

Talent will, too, if Asia will welcome it.

As it is right now, frankly, I find business far easier to do in Hong Kong than in the U.S. China is still a challenge for me, but the trends are undeniable, and are in Asia's favor.

Of course, in the immediate term, Asia is going to endure unhappy economic echoes from America's problems. But as long as Asia's economies can remain structurally sound, they'll eventually emerge ready to lead the world. By contrast, the fundamental U.S. economic structure is far weaker than most people realize.

Those of you in Saipan who have inroads into Asia will, I think, find some exciting opportunities when things sort themselves out. So, save your money. Read your Schumpeter. Your time will come.

## Letters to the Editor

### A need to review contract with CUC

As a member of this community for over 12 years, it has been our steadfast commitment to comply with the terms of our contract with CUC to operate and maintain the power plant on Tinian. The terms of that contract were negotiated and signed by individuals who are no longer involved in Telesource CNMI Inc. or the CUC, and were based on mutual economic projections that have been mistaken. The contract required Telesource to invest tens of millions of dollars into the future of the island, including the upgrade of Tinian's entire power distribution network. Telesource has lived up to its commitment. In return, the parties expected Telesource to have a reasonable opportunity to receive a modest profit. However, this has never occurred and the result has become unconscionable. Telesource has consistently communicated to numerous parties and the public the large losses that we continue to incur under the existing terms of our contract. We have been forthright and open in our efforts to seek any opportunity that would assist the CNMI in resolving the energy challenges it faces as well as providing Telesource with reasonable prospects to offset its losses. Similar to the current political and economic situation inherited by the new U.S. president, CUC and Telesource, and their current

management teams, must address and resolve the impact of their predecessor's decisions.

For the last four years, the new management team at Telesource has directed over \$7.5 million of additional investments on Tinian. This is in addition to the over \$42 million that Telesource previously had invested in the CNMI. These are invested dollars that, under our current contract with CUC will never yield a return. Clearly, over the last 12 years we have proven our commitment through the dollars we have invested, the completion of the upgrade as well as the quality of the management of the power plant. No other power plant on any of the islands that make up the CNMI can compare to our successful record of reliability and commitment to operating excellence.

During this same period, Telesource has both privately and publicly driven for full disclosure on all bidding associated with CUC. Telesource will continue to drive for open and honest dealings with all those who do business with our company.

Our overall commitment to the CUC and the residents of the CNMI has resulted in a cycle of unsustainable losses. Our filed and

ten to the song "planet earth" from Pacific Islander singer Oshean, he lays out the details of modernization and its effects in the near future. His songs of preservation won him international fame. Why can't we do the same? We can't because the government's playing another tune.

There are a lot of Kagman homestead lots. Lots that were given to applicants who failed to build a home or even made an effort to build one. The lots could easily be given to other applicants waiting in line. It clearly goes to show that our government just doesn't give a hoot. I demand our legislators to do something about this disgusting uncalled-for move. I guess the only thing to do is create a human barricade to block these bulldozers.

As activists in other countries are trying to prevent deforestation, we are trying to encourage it. A government without a head is no head at all. What do you think?

**Vince G. Cabrera**  
*Chalan Piao, Saipan*

the plight of the people in businesses and many human faces affected by federalization. On the part of Governor Fitial, he remains the fearless hero of the CNMI! Many people are now rallying behind him and we will see to it that he will continue to deliver the needed actions and not just the talk. Stay the course and let Governor Fitial continue to brighten more lights at the end of that dreadful tunnel.

**Alexandro Sablan**  
*Dandan, Saipan*

audited 2008 financial statements reflect a loss of approximately \$2.7 million on \$1.1 million of revenues from our Tinian power operations. Furthermore, after reducing all costs and developing an austere budget for 2009, we forecast that our 2009 results will produce a \$1.3 million loss on Tinian. (This forecast removes any purchases that are not directly related to the current operation of the plant. In other words, any major disaster or breakdown may require significant additional investment of inventory. Delays in restoring service will be a reality if a major disaster or breakdown occurs. Service degradation will also be a reality if these losses continue.) Clearly, the existing contract does not provide us with an incentive to invest any further funds.

As with any company, we have a fiduciary responsibility to manage our business successfully. We need to review our contract with the CUC and move to improve its terms and conditions so that it is fair and reasonable for both parties. Our invitation to the CNMI Legislature to visit our power plant operations remains open and sincere. Our goal is to provide efficient and reliable energy to the people of the CNMI and in exchange we seek to earn a fair return on our invested capital.

Finally, we all know these are difficult times for the CNMI and Telesource. We both realize how important the energy infrastructure is to the CNMI's future economic growth. What we both realize more than anything is the importance of a reliable energy partner to the security and growth of the CNMI citizens, visitors and businesses. We must energetically commit to securing each of these groups' future by ensuring that CUC and its partners remain financially viable and strong.

**Telesource CNMI, Inc. Management**  
*San Jose Village, Tinian*

**GOD**  
*From Page 10*

what is not-yet, between memory and anticipation, and in the language of this week, at the borders of faith and hope.

Sometime somewhere, a group of people made a conscious choice that for the unknown Unknown that called every morsel of the past into being, the proper stance is gratitude; that for all the uncertainty of a future careening into our existence unannounced and in a manner like the bull in the proverbial china parlor, the desired response is hopeful anticipation; and that which sustains the bottomless pit of the abyss that accompanies any serious affirmation of what-just-IS, the gracious response is more than just to let it be! That reality in fact is our parent (in the cultural myopia of Mesopotamia, they called it "Abba," father)!

It is then that the word "God" might begin to make any sense, not as something among other things that one can believe in, but as a word pointing to an inescapable reality one is compelled to relate to, in which case, one can understand that since the life that gives, and life that takes away is our eternal up-against-ness, then blessed, indeed, be its name!

## Congratulations Gov. Fitial!

While the Speaker of the House showed a very predictable attitude to the delay in the implementation of the federalization law in the CNMI, the vast majority of the people on the islands here are very happy with the effort of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Rep. Greg Kilili in their successful attempt to obtain the 180-day delay! Does the speaker realize that attitude problems are actually a disability?

In any case, I am very happy and I know that many other people, especially the business community, appreciate this effort by our very hard working leaders. For one, Greg Kilili is speaking out to address

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.pr.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.pr.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°

## Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 75
Palau	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 78
Yap	Cloudy	▲ 88 ▼ 76
Chuuk	Showers	▲ 88 ▼ 79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 76
Kosrae	Partly Sunny	▲ 90 ▼ 78
Majuro	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 76

## Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲ 62 ▼ 50
Beijing	Cloudy	▲ 70 ▼ 54
Hong Kong	Partly Sunny	▲ 77 ▼ 68
Honolulu	Showers	▲ 75 ▼ 70
London	Rain	▲ 55 ▼ 43
Los Angeles	Rain	▲ 62 ▼ 52
Manila	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 77
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲ 74 ▼ 56
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲ 80 ▼ 72
New York	Showers	▲ 56 ▼ 42
Osaka	Sunny	▲ 71 ▼ 52
Paris	Showers	▲ 61 ▼ 45
Pusan	Sunny	▲ 77 ▼ 55
Rome	Showers	▲ 67 ▼ 50
Salem	Showers	▲ 55 ▼ 37
San Francisco	Showers	▲ 59 ▼ 47
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲ 75 ▼ 44
Tokyo	Sunny	▲ 72 ▼ 54
Washington, DC	Showers	▲ 58 ▼ 47

## Tides

Saipan Harbor		Sunrise/Sunset		Moonrise/Moonset			
2:05 AM Today	Low Tide: 0.6 Feet	Today	6:06 AM	6:31 PM	Today	7:04 PM	6:06 AM
7:36 AM Today	High Tide: 2.0 Feet	Saturday	6:06 AM	6:31 PM	Saturday	7:59 PM	6:47 AM
2:29 PM Today	Low Tide: 0.1 Feet	Sunday	6:05 AM	6:31 PM	Sunday	8:53 PM	7:32 AM
8:54 PM Today	High Tide: 1.9 Feet	Monday	6:04 AM	6:31 PM	Monday	9:48 PM	8:19 AM
		Tuesday	6:04 AM	6:31 PM	Tuesday	10:40 PM	9:09 AM

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Photos must have been taken in the last two months.

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the name of contact person, and a phone number.

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For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 12, 2009

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
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<b>Saipan-Rota</b> C09597 11:50am 12:25pm 1,7	<b>Rota-Saipan</b> CO 9598 3:25am 4:00am 5,6
<b>Saipan-Guam</b> C09317 5:00am 5:50am Daily C09318 8:30am 9:20am Daily C09597 11:50am 1:20pm 1,7 via Rota C09601 12:30pm 1:20pm 2,3,4,5,6 C09603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily C09605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily C09599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	<b>Guam-Saipan</b> CO 9316 2:30am 3:20am 1,2,3,4,7 CO 9598 2:30am 4:00am 5,6 via Rota C09596 7:00am 7:50am Daily C09600 10:20am 11:10am Daily C09602 2:00pm 2:50pm Daily C09604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily C09606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
<b>Saipan-Narita</b> NW 099 5:00am 7:35am Daily NW 078 8:20am 1:30pm 2,3,4,5,6,7 NW 075 4:55pm 7:30pm Daily	<b>Narita-Saipan</b> NW 076 10:15am 2:40pm Daily NW 077 6:25pm 1:20am+1 2,3,4,5,6,7 NW 100 8:45pm 1:10am+1 Daily
<b>Guam-Narita</b> NW 73 4:10pm 7:00pm Daily NW 81 3:55pm 6:55pm Daily	<b>Narita-Guam</b> NW 74 9:45am 2:20pm Daily NW 82 10:30am 3:10pm Daily
<b>Saipan-Osaka</b> OZ 119 4:00am 6:40am 1,4,6	<b>Osaka-Saipan</b> OZ 120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 3,5,7
<b>Guam-Osaka</b> NW 79 4:45pm 7:35pm Daily	<b>Osaka-Guam</b> NW 80 10:30am 3:00pm Daily
<b>Saipan-Nagoya</b> NW 078 8:20am 11:05am Daily	<b>Nagoya-Saipan</b> NW 077 9:00pm 1:20am+1 Daily
<b>Guam-Nagoya</b> NW 23 4:30pm 7:20pm Daily	<b>Nagoya-Guam</b> NW 24 10:00am 2:30pm Daily
<b>Saipan-Incheon</b> OZ 604 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ 604 2:40am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7 OZ 119 4:00am 11:25am 1,4,6 via Osaka OZ 606 3:20pm 7:00pm Daily	<b>Incheon-Saipan</b> OZ 605 9:00am 2:20pm Daily OZ 603 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ 120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 3,5,7 via Osaka OZ 603 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6
<b>Saipan-Busan</b> OZ 608 3:20am 6:50am 1,4,5,7	<b>Busan-Saipan</b> OZ 607 9:00pm 2:10am+1 3,4,6,7
<b>Saipan-Shanghai</b> FM 844 2:50am 5:40am 2,6	<b>Shanghai-Saipan</b> FM 843 7:15pm 1:50am+1,5,11,5
<b>Rota-Guam</b> CO 9597 12:50pm 1:20pm 1,7	<b>Guam-Rota</b> CO 9598 2:30am 3:00am 5,6
<b>Guam-Palau</b> CO 953 7:40pm 8:40pm 1,7 CO 893 5:50pm 6:50pm 3,5	<b>Palau-Guam</b> CO 954 2:30am 5:25am 1,2 CO 892 2:35am 5:30am 4,6
<b>Palau-Manila</b> CO 893 7:35pm 9:10pm 3,5	<b>Manila-Palau</b> CO 892 10:10pm 1:50am+1 3,5
<b>Guam-Manila</b> CO 893 5:50pm 9:10pm 3,5 via Koror CO 933 8:00pm 9:40pm Daily PR 111 6:00am 7:50am 1,2,4,6,7	<b>Manila-Guam</b> CO 892 10:10pm 5:30am+1 3,5 via Koror CO 934 11:10pm 4:40am+1 Daily PR 110 10:10pm 4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7
<b>Nagoya-Manila</b> NW 71 8:40pm 11:55pm Daily	<b>Manila-Nagoya</b> NW 72 6:30am 11:05am Daily
<b>Incheon-Hongkong</b> OZ 721 9:20am 12:00pm Daily OZ 723 7:45pm 10:35pm Daily OZ 7173 8:00pm 10:50pm 5,7	<b>Hongkong-Incheon</b> OZ 724 12:30am 4:50am Daily OZ 7183 12:45am 5:05am 1,4,6 OZ 722 1:30pm 5:45pm Daily
<b>Narita-Manila</b> NW 1 7:00pm 10:55pm Daily	<b>Manila-Narita</b> NW 2 7:45am 12:40pm Daily

# Tourism, infra devt, green energy highlight DOI conference

An estimated 500 participants in the two-day Fifth Conference on Business Opportunities in the Islands that kicked off Monday in Honolulu, Hawaii, were briefed on possible businesses that may be explored in U.S. territories, with particular focus on tourism, infrastructure development, and renewable energy solutions.

The event, hosted by the U.S. Department of the Interior, provided a forum for island leaders to speak directly to potential investors. Speakers detailed the benefits and incentives for doing business in their jurisdiction. All invited business partners and investors to their islands expressed a common optimism for the growth potential of the islands and the success of the conference in creating networking opportunities.

The Northern Marianas' delegation was represented by Commerce Secretary Michael Ada. Gov. Benigno R. Fitial was unable to attend due to the ongoing jury trial of Lt. Gov. Timothy Villagomez.

In his remarks, Ada spoke about the unique business opportunities featured on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian, emphasizing the need for sustainable development regardless of a given project's industry or location.

Ada also addressed the current economic climate, concluding that the CNMI has an "unwillingness to let the

economic challenges slow us down," and that the territory is "motivated to tackle the economic challenges we face—that is what makes our community [the CNMI] unique."

Nikolao Pula, acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs, spoke to delegates Monday, followed by the leaders of each of the island delegations, including President Manny Mori of the Federated States of Micronesia and Governors Felix Camacho of Guam and Togiola Tulafono of American Samoa.

Following the opening session, attendees heard from Dr. Richard Kelley, chairman of Outrigger Enterprises, who spoke about the importance of tourism in generating jobs and revenue for island economies.

Lt. Gen. Chip Gregson, former Commander of the Marine Forces Pacific, discussed the strategic and security implications of developing energy independence and alternative energy independence on the islands, particularly in Guam with the upcoming military realignment of 8,000 Marines and their families from Okinawa.

Dr. Stephen Schneider, a climatologist from Stanford University and joint recipient of the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize for his work with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, underscored Gregson's com-

ments by presenting scientific evidence of the threat of global warming, its potential effects on island jurisdictions, and the pressing need for finding solutions now.

Hawaii Lt. Gov. James "Duke" Aiona keynoted the conference's luncheon and

spoke about Hawaii's successful alternative energy projects as models for other islands to follow. "As isolated islands, clean energy future is no longer simply a desire of environmentalists. It is a necessity for our long-term economic survival," Aiona said.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Commerce Secretary Michael Ada speaks at the Fifth Conference on Business Opportunities in the Islands that kicked off Monday in Honolulu, Hawaii.

After only the first of three days of the conference, business and government leaders were already making connections that will eventually lead to economic development in the territories and freely associated states.

Tuesday's sessions allowed conference attendees to learn even more about doing business on the islands and the opportunities that exist in these jurisdictions before the confer-

ence culminated with a day of business-to-business meetings on Wednesday, April 8.

The conference is the Interior Department's flagship event to promote economic development in the U.S. territories and freely associated states of American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Marshall Islands, Palau, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. (DOI)

## Solomons MP wants plan to relocate low-lying islands

### HONIARA, Solomon Islands

(Solomon Times/PIR)—Parliament member Manasseh Maelanga of East Malaita has called on responsible authorities to start working on a relocation plan for those outer islands affected by the rising sea levels.

Maelanga raised the issue during the question and answers session in parliament yesterday.

He called on the various ministries responsible, "to act now because we are running out of time."

"Ministries should act and relocate people especially those living in low lying atolls...there is an urgent need for them to be relocated to main lands," Maelanga said.

He added that he is currently talking with customary landowners in his constituency to

"give land for relocation purposes...and have the land registered to those that eventually settle there."

Minister for home affairs James Tora stated that his ministry is still awaiting reports from the disaster management office, "government is taking a cautious approach in the resettlement of people affected by the rise in sea levels, and it will take time."

Gordon Darcy, minister for environment and conservation, explained in parliament that alienated land in existence in the country have all been earmarked for commercial development.

He said any land for people that may be affected by sea level rise must be negotiated with landowners and provinces.



### Roasts, Reds & Rendezvous at the Hyatt with Kendall Jackson Wines and Certified Angus Beef

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Set menu is available from April 13th till May 10th

\$85.00 per person

Club at the Hyatt cards welcome

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Kili Cafe & Terrace features Certified Angus Beef on its Live Stations on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Sundays.

Tuesday

French Culinaire

Wednesday

Mexican Fiesta

Sunday

Chamolinian Night

From April 3rd till May 10th

\$35.00 per person including beer and a glass of wine

Club at the Hyatt cards welcome



 **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**
**NMC 2009 graduation candidates meeting tomorrow**

Spring 2009 Graduation candidates of the Northern Marianas College are invited to attend the Graduation Committee Meeting scheduled for tomorrow, April 11, 2009, Saturday, at the Student Support Services office located in Building J on the NMC campus at 2pm.

The meeting will feature updates on the 2009 Graduation Commencement Exercises. For more information, contact Jack Kiyoshi, Jr. at 234-5498 ext. 1021 or e-mail [jackk@nmcnet.edu](mailto:jackk@nmcnet.edu). All students preparing to graduate in May 2009 are strongly encouraged to attend this meeting. (NMC)

**No Puengin Inetnon today**

The next Puengin Inetnon for

Kagman will be held on Friday, April 24. There will be no Friday Night Market on April 10 due to the observance of Good Friday. There will also be no Saturday Flea Market on April 11. (PR)

**OES PTSA meeting set**

The PTSA Officers of Oleai Elementary School would like to inform the parents and guardians of Oleai Elementary School students that there will be a PTSA meeting on Tuesday, April 14, 2009, at 6:15pm, in the school cafeteria. Everyone is encouraged to attend. (PR)

**Meeting for Palauans on Saipan tomorrow**

The Palau Community Association is calling a meeting of all Palauans on Saipan, tomorrow, April 11, 2009. The meeting will be held at BAI SITE (Navy Hill),

10am. PCA is humbly requesting the participation of all Palauans to show up this Saturday. (PR)

**CPA sets triennial disaster drill**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is holding their Triennial Disaster Drill Exercise on April 15, 2009, from 9am to about 12pm. This drill allows CPA and other CNMI government agencies to review and assess procedures that are to be adhered to, to safely respond to a disaster, should it occur at the Saipan International Airport. This year's drill includes an aircraft incident scenario. Emergency vehicles from different agencies will be traveling to and from the Saipan International Airport for the duration of this drill and for the public not to be alarmed. (CPA)

**UOG to host College Night, Financial Aid Fair on Saipan**

The University of Guam will conduct a College Night and Financial Aid Fair on Saipan on April 13, 2009, at the Multi-Purpose Center on Beach Road.

Presentations about the University of Guam's academic programs, and the admissions and registration process will be held at 11am, 12 noon, and 6pm. The recruitment team from UOG will also help individuals fill out the free application for Federal Student Aid form online and on the spot from 10am to 7pm in the Multi-Purpose Center on Beach Road. For more information, contact Dr. Julie Ulloa-Heath, dean of UOG's Enrollment Management and Student Services, at 735-2290 or [julieuh@ugua.uog.edu](mailto:julieuh@ugua.uog.edu). (UOG)

**Free maritime hazmat transportation training seminar**

The U.S. Coast Guard is hosting a free half-day seminar on maritime hazardous materials transportation. If you are in the business of handling containerized shipment of hazardous goods, then this training is for you. Topics include how to use the Hazardous Materials Regulations (49 CFR Part 1185), labeling and placarding requirements, properly filling out shipping papers, and what to expect during Coast Guard's container inspections.

The free training will be held April 13, 2009, 8am-12pm, at the American Memorial Park Auditorium. For more information, contact Lt. Julie Bethke at 236-2969. (USCG)

**Memorial Day preparations begin**

May 25, 2009 is Memorial Day, during which the CNMI will pay tribute to members of the U.S. Armed Forces who have passed away. The community will remember those who served the nation so that everyone may enjoy the fruits of freedom of a democratic society. This is to let all Memorial Day Committee members and all interested in being a part of the committee that we will begin to meet every Tuesday at 9am starting on April 14, 2009, at the Office of Military/Veterans Affairs on Capitol Hill building 1364. (PR)

**Marianas High School schedule**

April 14: 4th Quarter begins  
April 9-13: Easter Break  
April 15: 3rd Quarter Report Card Distribution/ Open House, 4-6pm MHS Campus  
April 27-May 1: SAT10 test (grade 9 and 11)  
May 4-15: Advanced Placement Exams  
May 18-22: PSS SBA Tests  
May 25: No classes (Memorial Day)  
June 11: Graduation Ceremony  
June 15: End of 4th Quarter

For questions and concerns, contact 237-3206. (PR)

**Notisian pupbliku para hunta**

I Areklamenton Lengguahen Chamoro yan Carilinan para u mana' guaha Hunta gi Abril 11, 2009 gi Oran Alas Nuebi gi Egga'an guatu gi Ofisinan Man-Amko'. Todu pupbliku manamkonbibida para u ma'atende este na Hunta. Para mas infomasion, agang I ofisinan Lengguahi yan Kutura as Cindy Reyes gi tilifon 664-5326/27. Si Yu'us Ma'ase'. (PR)

**'John Gonzales Live' April schedule**

April 22, 2009 LIVE at 7-8 pm

– Replays April 26 and April 27 at 7-8pm

Parents and service providers discuss autism awareness in the CNMI

April 29, 2009 LIVE – Replays May 3 and May 4 at 7-8pm

Current issues with the Family Court

Judge Kenneth Govendo and Family Court Administrator Patrick V. Diaz

All shows air on KSPN Channel 2. LIVE Text: 285-META; LIVE Call: 287-4230; Email: [johngonzales@pticom.com](mailto:johngonzales@pticom.com). (PR)

See COMMUNITY on Page 15

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**TOYOTA**

## Jobless worker who damaged two cars gets 53-day sentence

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman has imposed a 53-day prison term on one of two jobless alien workers accused of burglarizing two parked cars and stealing battery and airbags from the vehicles.

For two counts of criminal mischief, Wiseman sentenced Xi Wen Li to 53 days in jail but gave him credit for the 23 days he had already served in prison.

After his release from the Department of Corrections on May 8, Li, a Chinese national, shall be released to the CNMI Immigration for deportation, Wiseman said.

The judge noted that the defendant consented to deportation.

Li was required to pay a \$25 court assessment fee.

The Attorney General's Office charged Li and co-defendant Ying Xiang Cao with theft, attempted theft, and two counts of criminal mischief.

## COMMUNITY

From Page 14

### KagES April calendar of events

April 14: Students/teachers return to classes

April 17: Early dismissal for all students at noon

April 17: Quarter Report Cards distribution at 1:30pm-4:30pm

April 27-May 1: SAT 10 Assessment for 3rd and 5th grade students

### Income tax return deadline

The Division of Revenue and Taxation wishes to inform all CNMI residents that the deadline for filing of the 2008 individual Income Tax Return is Wednesday, April 15, 2009, at the office of the Division of Revenue and Taxation located at the Joeten Dandan Commercial Center. Deadline hours for April 15, 2009 are from 7:30am to 4:30pm. (PR)

### Corporate Challenge reset to May 17

Due to some conflicting events, the 2009 Corporate Challenge of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce is being rescheduled. After a meeting with the team captains for the companies that already registered, it was agreed that the event will take place on Sunday, May 17. Everything else remains the same. Register now and join the Chamber for a day of guaranteed fun and camaraderie. (PR)

### Quarterly tax return deadline

The Division of Revenue and Taxation wishes to remind all CNMI residents that the 2009 1st Quarter deadline for filing the quarterly tax returns is Thursday, April 30, 2009. The Division of Revenue and Taxation will be open from 7:30am to 4:30pm on Thursday, April 30, 2009. The

Li signed a plea agreement. He pleaded guilty to two counts of criminal mischief. The court dismissed the remaining charges pursuant to the agreement.

The agreement stated that on Sept. 26, 2008, Li damaged to Rong Bai Li's Toyota Corolla in the rear, passenger side window.

Detective Abraham C. Villagomez stated in his report that a caller reported to the Department of Public Safety last Sept. 26 that a burglary and theft incident happened at the former Joeten Shopping Center in Chalan Kanoa.

Police responded and arrested the two defendants. Police said the two admitted breaking into the two vehicles and stealing airbags and battery from one car.

The two allegedly confessed planning to sell the battery and airbags to an auto shop to make money because they are jobless. (Ferdie de la Torre)

office of the Division of Revenue and Taxation is located at the Joeten Dandan Commercial Center. For more information, call 664-1000, 664-1043 Compliance Branch, or 664-1066 Collection Branch. (PR)

### SVES registration schedule

San Vicente Elementary School Registration for School Year 2009-2010 is scheduled to begin on April 27, 2009 from 9am-12pm, and 1-4pm in the school registrar's office.

Kindergarten- April 27-May 01, 2009

First through Third Grade- May 4-8, 2009

Fourth through Six Grade- May 11-15, 2009

Registration requirements: Birth certificate or passport, health certificate, health/ accidental insurance, map of residential location, power of attorney/ legal guardianship (if applicable), copy of report card, unofficial transcript with the address and phone number of the last school attended. (PR)

### Sr. Remedios registration ongoing

Registration is now ongoing at the Sister Remedios Early Childhood Development Center for School Year 2009-2010. For more information, call 234-6247. (PR)

### Attention to MHS 9th grader

A reminder to all Marianas High School incoming freshmen (9th grader): Make sure to verify with the MHS Registrar (237-3205) that you are registered for classes for school year 2008-2009. You have to provide a new blue health card to MHS for new school year. Deadline for submission of new blue health card from Department of Public Health is Tuesday, Sept. 2. For questions and concerns, contact 237-3206. (PR)



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2X6X14 - \$7.90

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2X6X18 - \$9.90

2X6X20 - \$10.90

2X4X12 - \$6.30

2X4X14 - \$7.30

2X4X16 - \$8.70

2X4X18 - \$9.70

2X4X20 - \$10.70

2X6X12 - \$10.20

2X6X14 - \$12.20

2X6X16 - \$14.20

2X6X18 - \$15.20

2X6X20 - \$17.20

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R09-004B	2004	CAMRY LE 4DR	AUTO	100808	GRAY	ACB-770	9,999	
R08-021F	2005	MATRIX BASE	AUTO	68931	RED	ACD-510	9,999	6,999
R09-005F	2006	MATRIX BASE	AUTO	57427	SILVER	ABZ-639	10,999	
<b>GM CARS</b>								
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R07-034F	2005	OPTRA 4DR.	AUTO	14592	SILVER	ACD-020	10,999	9,499
<b>LEXUS</b>								
R08-003F	2003	LEXUS LS430	AUTO	54477	IVORY	ADU-502	20,999	23,999

# LISS students take part in Cultural Week Appreciation



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Ladera International School of Saipan fourth graders and teacher Gus Wheeler, back, showcase the Mexican culture in Wednesday's cultural week competition on campus. Each class—from K 4 to 8th grade—represented countries such as Germany, France, Japan, China, the Philippines, Thailand, Mexico, the United States of America, and the Carolinian culture.



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Ten-year-old Jane Lee, a second grader at Ladera International School of Saipan in Fina Sisu, jumps high to outmaneuver the bamboo sticks as part of the Philippine national dance called "tinikling" while her teacher, Nina Rivera, right, and classmates look.



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Students demonstrate how to grate coconut as part of their exhibit for the Carolinian culture.



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

The Kindergarten class showcases the American culture, with students displaying popular American games, costumes, and food.



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

German teacher Connie Nakamura explains that in the German culture, children put out pairs of shoes instead of stockings to receive gifts from Santa Claus. If the child has been good, he or she gets candies; children who've been naughty get sticks.

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Over a hundred students of Ladera International School of Saipan took part in its Inaugural Cultural Week Appreciation that showcased the school's various ethnic origins and cultures.

In the final activity Wednes-

day, students wowed judges and spectators with their creative decorations and presentations highlighting the uniqueness of 12 chosen cultures—Japanese, Filipino, Thai, Mexican, Chinese, American, Germany, Carolinian, French, Italian, Canadian, and Korean.

LISS principal and director Wayne Pangelinan disclosed

that the objective of Cultural Week Appreciation is to widen each student's understanding and appreciation of various cultures.

LISS is home to 135 students. As an international school, the principal described the current population as a very diverse group.

Genevie Angeles, the

school's event coordinator, said it took the classes two weeks to prepare everything for the final presentation.

Besides demographic information, each class also wore traditional costumes of selected cultures, a sampling of the country's native foods, a showcase of remarkable inventions, and demonstrations of popular

games and dances.

Wednesday's final activity served as a competition among grade levels.

Emerging best among the entries was the presentation made by sixth graders who showcased the German culture through the guidance of their own German teacher, Connie Nakamura.

Nakamura's family heir-

looms were among the best displays, according to judges.

The teacher said her personal knowledge about German culture made her students more enthusiastic and interested in the presentation.

Twelve-year-old Irvyn M. Malonzo said he was amazed at the "uniqueness and richness" of the German culture.

"I enjoyed looking at all the German stuff we displayed.... and they're amazing," Malonzo said, citing the "cuckoo clock" as a truly remarkable invention.

Named second best was the presentation made by the Kindergarten class, which showcased the American culture. Students displayed popular American games, costumes, and food.

Presenters of the Philippine culture emerged as third best in Wednesday's competition.

Fourteen-year-old Jane Rhee said that by doing the activity, one developed camaraderie, friendship, and harmonious relationships with their peers. Rhee's class presented the French culture.

Third grade teacher Susan Satur said the activity provides students the opportunity to "learn" and "travel" to various destinations and places all at the same time.

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## A review of Pygmalion

By SYLVIA HAYWOOD  
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

*The Friends of the Arts will be presenting the musical, My Fair Lady, on two successive weekends in the spring. This is the musical adaptation of George Bernard Shaw's Pygmalion. Shaw was interested in exploring the power divide between the rich and the poor as well as the differences between accents and ideas of the different social classes. The following is a condensed explanation of Acts I through V of the play, Pygmalion, and will appear on four successive Fridays before the musical is presented at the Multi-Purpose Center on Beach Road. The first part was published on March 20, 2009; the second on March 27, 2009; the third April 3, 2009.*

### Week Four

Eliza has disappeared! Henry shows up at his mother's complaining that he can't find anything, nobody is reminding him of his appointments and he has called the police to report Eliza missing. Suddenly Eliza's father shows up complaining that Henry has ruined his life. He is prepared to marry Eliza's mother at last and Mrs. Higgins and Pickering go off to help him accomplish this task.

Henry and Eliza talk at length about the future. Eliza tells Higgins that Freddie loves her and writes her letters every day. But she has come to care a great deal about Higgins and only wishes that he would treat her with kindness.

Realizing that any future with Henry is impossible, she leaves with Mrs. Higgins after Henry asks her to run some errands for him, including buying some cheese and ham. She tells him goodbye, but he seems confident that she will do as he commanded.

*The play ends on this note. However, in an epilogue, Eliza realizes that Henry will always be a bachelor, so she marries Freddie and after some financial problems, she opens a flower shop and they are successful and live a comfortable life.*

*The biggest difference between the play and the musical production seems to be that in the musical, Eliza appears to stay with Henry. Although it is left unsaid, the impression is that Henry and Eliza live happily ever after!*

*The Friends of the Arts hope that this will give you a little insight into the wonderful story of a young, struggling lower-class flower seller who becomes a beautiful, well-spoken lady. This musical story of love will fill your romantic heart with joy!*

*Sylvia Haywood is the publicity chairman for the Friends of the Arts.*

## Report: NMC's market value at \$9.6M in 2008

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College's market value is \$9.6 million based on an appraisal report conducted in March last year.

The findings, which were also

### Ogumoro quits as DPS PIO

Lei Ogumoro has resigned as information officer of the Department of Public Safety.

Ogumoro told *Saipan Tribune* that her resignation will take effect on Tuesday, April 14. She said she will be relocating to the U.S. mainland.

"Working for the department and the community has been a wonderful experience. I would like to extend my appreciation to all of you for working alongside DPS as we keep the community safe and informed of public safety-related issues,"

part of NMC's first accreditation report, stated that this appraisal includes the improvements made to the As Terlaje campus site.

The appraisal was performed for the purpose of estimating the market value of the property in terms of cash or in terms of

she said. Police Officer Eric David has been appointed Ogumoro's replacement.

In February 2007, the Fitial administration hired as DPS information officer Ogumoro, who was then a fresh college graduate. Ogumoro completed business administration at St. Mary's College of California in May 2006.

She then replaced Sgt. Thomas A. Blas Jr., who served as DPS acting public information officer for many months. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

financial arrangements equivalent to cash, to be used by the college as a management tool.

The report indicated that the market value of the land on which the college sits was \$16 per square meter as of March 2008, for a total value of \$1.113 million for the entire 69,586 square meter land.

The appraisal report estimated -2.59 percent per year decline of land value on Saipan.

Major factors cited in the decline in property market value included the Asian financial economic crisis, the 9/11 terrorist attacks in 2001, the SARS scare, and the Iraq War in 2003.

"These external factors apparently slowed down the demand for real estate acquisitions in the Commonwealth which resulted in the decline of the market value," the report stated.

The college's buildings are

estimated to have a value of \$9.6 million. The report believes that all causes of depreciation exists in the buildings, including other existing structures.

### NMC facility master plan out

NMC has already issued the specifications and scope of work for its planned facility master plan.

College president Dr. Carmen Fernandez said the college allows the participation of everyone in the planning process.

"Everyone at NMC will have an opportunity to participate in the facilities master planning process. Community input will also be invited," she told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that students, faculty, and staff deserve the best learning and

teaching environment.

"Our students deserve a state-of-the-art facility equipped with modern technology," she said, adding that the new campus has been one of her priority initiatives.

In the accreditation recommendations, NMC is asked to address the dilapidated facilities and buildings on campus that affect student learning.

"We will use the results from our ongoing program review processes to drive the facilities master plan process," she said.

According to Fernandez, a grant from U.S. Department of Interior will fund the facilities master plan, which will provide estimated costs that will determine the funding required to complete the project.

Once the facilities master plan is approved, Fernandez said, the college will work toward securing local and/or federal funds.



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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Pursuant to 1 CMC, Division 9, §9910, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the NMI Retirement Fund Board of Trustees/Workers' Compensation Commission/Group Health & Life Insurance Trust Fund, are hereby giving notice that the Board of Trustees will hold its **Regular** meeting on Monday, April 13, 2009 at 1:30 p.m. at the NMI Retirement Fund Conference Room, Saipan.

**AGENDA**

**I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS**

A. Call to Order  
B. Roll Call  
C. Adoption of Agenda  
D. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting:  
1. January 13, 2009  
2. February 27, 2009  
3. March 19, 2009

**II. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**REPORTS**

A. Report of the Chairman  
1. ROC No. 09-004  
B. Report of the Administrator / Correspondence  
1. ROA No. 09-004  
a) Status Updates  
C. Report of the Comptroller  
1. Financials  
a) NMIRF  
b) GHITF  
c) WCC  
2. Drawdown Requests  
3. CGECU Status Update  
D. Reports of the Committees  
1. Finance & Investment Committee  
2. Operations & Personnel Committee  
3. Policies, Programs & Legislative Review Committee  
4. GH&L and WCC Committee  
E. Reports of the Investment Director  
1. Status of Investment/Market Condition  
2. Report of Housing Loan Program  
3. MPLT Fee Sharing Proposal - Update  
F. Communications  
1. Internal Auditor Reports  
G. Other Matters

**IV. LEGAL MATTERS**

A. Reports of the Legal Counsels  
1. Report of the Board Counsel  
a) Lawsuit  
b) Other Legal Matters  
2. Report of the In-house Counsel  
a) Update on Administrative Appeals  
3. Report of the Hearing Officer

**V. OLD BUSINESS**

1. BR 08-001 Matters  
a) Pension Application Matters  
b) P.L. 15-98  
c) Disability Applicants  
2. Portfolio Monitoring Program (John Rice Presentation)  
3. Asset Liability Study

**VI. NEW BUSINESS**

**VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**VIII. MISCELLANEOUS**

A. Announcements  
B. Next Meeting  
C. Adjournment

/s/ JUAN T. GUERRERO  
CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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**2004 Nissan Frontier 4x4**  
STOCK # 4C416992  
**\$13,995.00\***



**2004 Ford Explorer XLT**  
STOCK # 4U451928  
**\$12,995.00\***



**2005 Kia Rio**  
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**2007 Ford Ranger King Cab**  
STOCK # 7PA31120  
**\$16,995.00\***



**2004 Nissan Quest S**  
STOCK # 4N344875  
**\$13,995.00\***



**2005 Ford Focus SE**  
STOCK # 5W222614  
**\$9,995.00\***



**2005 Nissan Frontier 4x4**  
STOCK # 5C411080  
**\$19,995.00\***



**2005 Kia Sportage 4x4**  
STOCK # 57085101  
**\$14,995.00\***



**2005 Nissan Sentra S**  
STOCK # 5L472573  
**\$11,995.00\***



**2005 Nissan Xterra SE**  
STOCK # 5C615035  
**\$18,995.00\***



**2005 Honda Civic LX**  
STOCK # 5H503419  
**\$12,995.00\***

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# Island Snapshots



**PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT**  
Members of the Saipan Awaodori Team go through rigorous practice at the Koblerville Youth Learning Center. The group is now preparing for the 3rd Awaodori Festival to be held on April 16, 2009, at the Paseo de Marianas in Garapan.  
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Members of the Saipan Awaodori Team practice in preparation for their performance with the Tokyo Tensuiren group of Tokyo Japan, who will come here on April 16, 2009, for the Saipan Awaodori Festival at the Paseo de Marianas. This is one of the events coordinated by PDM Promoters Inc. Its major sponsors are Fiesta Resort & SPA, NTT Docomo Pacific and Duty Free Galleria, in collaboration with DCCA and MVA.  
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## NEW GRADUATE

Herman I. Okaruru Jr., 40, left, shakes hands with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, center, and Rep. Justo S. Quitugua, after receiving his certificate of completion of core curriculum B at the Northern Marianas Trades Institute graduation ceremony in Lower Base on Tuesday night.  
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



**ECONOMIC SUMMIT**  
IT&E's Larry Knecht, right, raises his hand to make a point while Dr. Arthur L. Smith, left, president of consulting firm Management Analysis Inc., looks on during a breakout session on the second day of the 2009 Economic Restoration Summit Friday last week at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan in Garapan.  
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Businessman John C. Camacho presents his breakout group's recommendations on how to develop an agriculture industry at the conclusion of the two-day 2009 Economic Restoration Summit at the Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan last Friday.  
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



**CONGRATULATIONS!**  
Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela presents a certificate of their marriage vow to these two honeymooners from Japan, Tomohiro Kurota and Naomi Kurota on Tuesday as a collaborative effort of the Office of the Mayor of Saipan, the Marianas Visitors Authority, and Pacific Development Inc. on behalf of the people of Saipan.  
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



**WALL OF ART**  
A mural depicting the ancient ways of life in the Marianas greets visitors to the Saipan Mayor's Office in San Antonio and provides a welcome respite to employees, including Jema Tenorio, a youth program coordinator at the Saipan Mayor's Office.  
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

## ROTARY MEETING

Marian Aldan-Pierce, left, a member of the Citizens for Change of Article 12, stresses a point during the group's presentation on the need to repeal the land alienation provision of the CNMI Constitution at Tuesday's Rotary Club of Saipan meeting at the Hyatt Regency.  
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



**LIBRARY CLEANUP**  
The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library thanks the Taga Riders, its president Ed Flores, vice president Vince Lizama, and all its members and their families for taking time of their busy schedule to clean the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library on March 21 2009.  
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



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Quarter Leg Chicken Limit 2 Case <b>SALE \$16.99</b> 22 lbs.	Whole Young Chicken Limit 1 <b>SALE \$19.99</b> 33 lbs.	Pork Spareribs BBQ or Adobo Cut <b>SALE \$15.49</b> 20 lbs. Limit 2	Baby Ribs <b>SALE \$12.99</b> 10 lbs. Limit 2	Gusto Smoked <b>SALE \$1.99</b> /lb.	Beef Back Ribs Limit 2 <b>SALE \$24.99</b> /20 lbs.
Lotus Brand Rice <b>SALE \$23.99</b> 50 lbs.	Royal Thai Lady Rice Limit 1 <b>SALE \$27.99</b> 50 lbs.	Salad Oil 5 Gallon Limit 1 <b>SALE \$24.99</b>	Mackerel Pike and Horse Mackerel 22 lbs. <b>SALE \$20.99</b> /case	Milk Fish <b>SALE \$1.19</b> /lb. <b>SALE \$54.99</b> /case	Tilapia <b>99¢</b> /lb. <b>SALE \$37.99</b> /case
Ichiban <b>SALE \$7.99</b> Original Limit 1 Case	Spam All Flavors <b>SALE \$1.99</b> /each Limit 6 pcs.	Puriss Water <b>SALE \$4.99</b> 500 ml <b>SALE \$9.95</b> 2 Liter	Rits Soda All Flavor <b>SALE \$10.99</b> /case Limit 1 Case	Coke Warm only <b>SALE \$12.99</b> /case Limit 1 Case	HITE Beer <b>SALE \$13.99</b> /case Limit 1 Case

### GROCERY ITEMS

Hormel Chili (No Beans) <b>SALE \$1.59</b> Limit 12	Hormel Corned Beef Hash <b>SALE \$1.79</b> Limit 12	Master A1 Tuna <b>SALE 89¢</b> Limit 6	Sunflower Mackerel <b>SALE \$1.49</b>	Coco Tuna <b>SALE 99¢</b> Limit 6	Coco Mackerel <b>SALE \$1.29</b> /each	Ligo Sardines <b>SALE \$1.29</b> Limit 12 3 for \$1.00
Armour Vienna Sausage <b>SALE 59¢</b> /each	Ox & Plum Corned Beef <b>SALE \$2.29</b> /each Limit 12	Del Monte Kernel Corn <b>SALE 69¢</b>	Del Monte Fruit Cocktail <b>SALE \$3.99</b>	Del Monte Spaghetti Sauce All Flavors <b>SALE \$1.29</b>	Hosen Fruit Cocktail <b>SALE \$3.95</b>	Black Label Luncheon Meat <b>SALE \$1.39</b> Limit 12
Lemon Powder <b>SALE \$4.95</b>	Golden State Vinegar <b>SALE \$2.99</b>	Sugar <b>SALE \$1.59</b> /kg.	Kikkoman Limit 1 Cs. (6 bts) <b>SALE \$3.79</b> 1.61 lt.	Fresco Cooking Oil <b>SALE \$7.99</b>	Argo Cornstarch <b>SALE 79¢</b>	Excellent Rice Stick 80 oz. <b>SALE 99¢</b>
Pasta Select <b>SALE 99¢</b>	Dragon Brand Vegetable Oil <b>SALE 7.99</b> 1 Gal.	Seoksu Water 500 ml. <b>SALE \$5.99</b> /case	Sunkist All Flavors <b>SALE \$5.95</b> /case	Wilkins Water 4,000 ml. <b>SALE \$1.99</b> /ea	Lipton Iced Tea 38 qrt. <b>SALE \$5.95</b>	Nestea 28 qts. <b>SALE \$5.99</b>
Morton Salt <b>SALE 69¢</b>	Vlassic Dill Pickles <b>SALE \$6.99</b> Whole <b>SALE \$5.95</b> Whole	Ajinomoto 1 lb. <b>SALE 99¢</b>	Tang 22 quarts <b>SALE \$5.99</b>	Jin Korean Soy Sauce 1.8 Ltr. <b>SALE \$2.99</b>	Kimchee Base 450 G. <b>SALE \$4.95</b>	Folgers Classic Roast 39 oz. <b>SALE \$7.99</b>
						Dinty Moore Stew (Beef, Chicken and Meat Ball) <b>SALE \$1.49</b> /15 oz.

### FROZEN FOOD

Chopped Ham <b>SALE \$9.99</b> /5 lbs. <b>SALE \$17.99</b> /10 lbs.	Pork Riblets <b>SALE \$10.99</b> /cs.	Beef Rib Finger <b>SALE \$2.99</b> /lb.	Ground Pork <b>SALE \$17.99</b> /10 lbs.	Ground Beef <b>SALE \$15.99</b> /10 lbs.	Pork Butt Slab Only <b>SALE \$1.79</b> /lb.
Chamorro Sausage <b>SALE \$3.99</b> /pkg.	Miller Sausage <b>SALE \$14.99</b> /pkg.	Hoffy Portuguese Sausage <b>SALE \$1.99</b> /pkg.	Turkey Tail <b>SALE \$17.99</b> /cs.	Smoked Salmon Collar <b>SALE \$1.99</b> /lbs.	Bar S Bacon <b>SALE \$2.49</b> /pkg.
Pork Hocks Pork Belly Pork Adobo Pork Spareribs Pork Chops Beef Stew Beef Backribs Beef Shortribs Stewing Chicken Quarter Leg s.	Pork Belly Pork Adobo Pork Spareribs Pork Chops Beef Stew Beef Backribs Beef Shortribs Stewing Chicken Quarter Leg s.	Milk Fish Belly <b>SALE \$1.49</b> /pkg. <b>SALE \$1.99</b> /4 pcs.	Chicken Winggets <b>SALE \$9.99</b> /5 lbs.	Bar S Jumbo Franks <b>SALE \$1.05</b> /pkg. <b>SALE \$3.99</b> /1lb.	Bar S Hot Links <b>SALE \$1.99</b> /400 g.

### PRODUCE

Potato (Jumbo) <b>SALE 79¢</b> /lb.	Orange <b>SALE 89¢</b> /lb.	Gala/Fiji Apple <b>SALE \$3.99</b> /pkg.	Banana <b>SALE 99¢</b> /lb.
Red Onion <b>SALE 99¢</b> /lb.	Onion <b>SALE 59¢</b> /lb.	Garlic <b>SALE 89¢</b> /pack-4 pcs.	U.S. Eggs Extra Large <b>SALE \$1.99</b> /doz.

### NON-FOOD

Bounty Basic 8 Rolls <b>SALE \$7.95</b>	Toilet Tissue 10 Rolls <b>SALE \$3.95</b>	Soft & Gentle 24 Rolls <b>SALE \$8.99</b>	Jubilee Tissue 24 Rolls <b>SALE \$8.99</b>	Korean Facial Tissue 3 Packs <b>SALE \$4.50</b>	Cottonelle Tissue 12 Rolls <b>SALE \$3.99</b>
Luvs Diapers Big Box All Sizes <b>SALE \$16.95</b>	Gain Liquid Detergent <b>SALE \$4.99</b>	Suavitel 850 ml. <b>SALE \$1.59</b>	Adult Diapers <b>SALE \$7.95</b>	Joy Dishwashing Liquid 90 oz. <b>SALE \$5.99</b>	Safeguard Bar Soap <b>SALE 59¢</b> /each
Clorox 96 oz. <b>SALE \$2.99</b>	Suave Shampoo & Conditioner 15 oz. <b>2 for \$2.50</b>	White Rain Shampoo & Conditioner 590 ml. <b>2 for \$2.95</b>	Axxion Foam Plates 125 ct. <b>SALE \$6.95</b>	Butane Gas <b>SALE \$21.99</b> /case 2	

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# Business

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

### **Oil rises above \$50 on signs US consumption up**

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices rose to above \$50 a barrel Thursday in Asia as stronger-than-expected results from U.S. retailers suggested the worst of a plunge in American consumer spending may be over. Benchmark crude for May delivery rose 82 cents to \$50.20 a barrel by midday in Singapore in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose 23 cents on Wednesday to settle at \$49.38. Oil has traded near \$50 for the last week as investors have struggled to glean the health of the U.S. economy as it reels from its worst recession in decades.

### **Homes, cars, art seized in Colo. Ponzi scheme**

AURORA, Colo. (AP)—A former bishop in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints allegedly operated a Ponzi scheme from his suburban Denver home for about 15 years, bilking investors out of millions of dollars to collect religious art and classic cars. A lawsuit filed Tuesday in U.S. District Court in Denver by the Securities and Exchange Commission alleges Shawn Merriman, an unlicensed broker, collected up to \$20 million from investors in several states to support a lavish lifestyle. Merriman has not been charged with a crime but the matter remains under investigation, said Jeff Dorschner, spokesman with the U.S. attorney's office.

## **Automakers aim to stay relevant at NY auto show**

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Battered automakers are unveiling greener, hipper cars at the New York International Auto Show that they hope will satisfy scared buyers, while the company with the most to prove went the farthest Wednesday to show it still has a future.

Chrysler LLC President Jim Press surprised reporters at the automaker's news conference by arriving on stage in an iconic Fiat 500 subcompact. While the company's big unveiling was a new Jeep Grand Cherokee, the attention was clearly on the small car Chrysler may bring to the U.S. if it completes its tie-up with Italy's Fiat Group SpA.

"Don't you think that this would be

a perfect car to get around New York City?" he asked the crowd.

The bigger question is whether Chrysler will survive long enough to see the 500 on city streets. The Auburn Hills, Mich., company is surviving on a \$4 billion government lifeline with a mandate to reach a definitive deal with Fiat by May 1 and win concessions from its creditors and unions.

"At this point in time with Fiat, we don't see anything that would be an impasse or a deal breaker," Press told reporters. "We've had a constructive dialogue going, a cooperative dialogue with all the stakeholders, and we're hopeful that we'll be able to achieve the goals."

Other automakers showed off their cleanest, most forward-looking vehicles during the show's first day of media previews.

Mercedes-Benz debuted four new vehicles, including a high-performance version of its E-Class sedan and two hybrid models, and Land Rover unveiled a trio of new models. Toyota Motor Corp.'s Scion brand showcased a concept based on the Toyota iQ microcar, and Acura unveiled the ZDX, a sport sedan that Honda Motor Co.'s luxury brand said will go on sale this fall.

Carmakers treat auto shows as im-

portant venues to attract attention for their latest models, but this year's debuts have had fewer smoke machines and splashy laser shows than in years past. The show comes during bleak time for the industry, with automakers last week reporting a 37 percent decline in March U.S. sales.

Ford Motor Co.—the only U.S. automaker that has not accepted federal loans—isn't holding a news conference, although its electric-vehicle ambitions and new models like the Ford Fusion hybrid will be on display when the show opens to the public Friday.

## **Guam Industry Forum III reaches capacity**

**SANTA RITA, Guam**—The Joint

Guam Program Office announced recently that registration for the Guam Industry Forum III has reached capacity and is now closed. Over 1,300 participants representing 15 countries and a wide range of business sectors have registered for the event, which is the third in a series of forums designed to update industry on the design, construction and logistics support requirements for the relocation of Command, Air, Ground and Logistics units of the III Marine Expeditionary Force from Okinawa to Guam.

For individuals unable to attend the Forum in person, video files of all presentations will be available for download, free of charge, at [www.guamindustryforum.com](http://www.guamindustryforum.com) within 30 days of the close of the Forum. Briefing slides will also be available via the Guam In-

dustry Forum Web site.

The Industry Forum will be held April 28 and 29 at the Sheraton Laguna Resort, The Hilton Guam Resort and Spa and the Marriott Resort, and one-on-one sessions will be held on April 30 at the Hyatt Regency Guam. As in the past two Forums, Day One and Day Two presentations at each hotel will be simulcast to the other two hotels. All attendees will be able to participate in the discussions in real time from all three locations.

The Joint Guam Program Office facilitates the realignment of Marines from Okinawa to Guam. JGPO works within the Department of Defense and closely with the Government of Japan, Government of Guam, U.S. Congress and Federal agencies to lead and manage the delivery of required capabilities to the Marines. (PR)



**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands**  
**Office of the Secretary of Public Works**

2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai  
Saipan, MP 96950



### **REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL DPW09-RFP-014**

#### **CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE CROSS ISLAND ROAD IMPROVEMENTS, PHASE II-A CM-NH-0031 (014)**

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified Architectural Engineering companies for the **Construction Management Services for the Cross Island Road Improvements, Phase II-A (CNMI)**.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations dated May 24, 2001, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is **not available** because its use is prohibited by the Federal Law granting the funding for this project. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 4-102 of the Procurement Regulations.

Any corporation or partnership "firm" must have or obtained a valid Certificate of Authorization (COA) from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Board of Professional Licensing (CNMI BOPL). Individuals and/or sole proprietors are required to possess a valid professional license issued by the CNMI BOPL.

The Scope of Work will be available on or after March 27, 2009 at the Department of Public Works, Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of Fifty Dollars (**\$50.00**) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division. A **mandatory** Pre-Proposal Conference is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works, Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Gualo Rai Commercial Building on April 15, 2009. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. Joseph M. Inos, Jr., Director of Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 234-3547 no later than 4:30 p.m. local time April 30, 2009.

Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1. Company Background and Qualifications (5 pages maximum each company) - **25%**
2. Qualifications of Team or assigned personnel and organizational structure (5 pages combined maximum) - **30%**
3. Past Experience of team and/or assigned personnel on projects successfully completed of similar size and scope (10 pages combined maximum) - **25%**
4. Current Workload of Firm (5 pages maximum) - **20%**

Proposals must be sealed and marked "**DPW09-RFP-014**". For proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, **May 5, 2009**. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a **Notice of Intent to Propose**. Notices of Intent to submit proposals must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, **May 5, 2009** and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or via e-mail to [procurement@pticom.com](mailto:procurement@pticom.com). For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **May 5, 2009** and must be received no later than **May 14, 2009**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

Discussions shall be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the contract requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required. A contract shall be negotiated with the highest qualified Architect-Engineer firm at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government, factors such as the prices proposed by other firms responding to the solicitation shall be considered. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the highest-ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

The successful A-E firm will be subjected to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301.

This project is funded in whole by a grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Contract award is contingent upon funding approval by the FHWA. All offerors shall be subjected to the provisions of the Federal Acquisition Regulations Part 52, Subpart 209-5, Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Proposed Debarment, and Other Responsibility Matters, March 1996.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded a contract for this project, including excise tax.

The Government reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals and to waive any imperfections in any Proposal in the best interest of the Government. All Proposals shall become property of the Government.

/s/ **DIEGO B. SONGSONG**  
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**  
Director of Procurement & Supply



**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands**  
**Office of the Secretary of Public Works**

2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai  
Saipan, MP 96950

### **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS DPW09-RFP-015**

#### **CONSULTANT SERVICES FOR DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT OF A CRASH ANALYSIS SYSTEM**

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through Secretary of Public Works, are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified companies or individuals to provide **Consultant Services for the Design and Development of a Crash Analysis System for the Department of Public Works, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands**.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNNU Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public law 15 95 and as further amended by Public Law 15 118, is **not available** because its use is prohibited by the federal law granting the funding for this project. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with § 70-30.3-310 of the Procurement Regulations.

The Scope of work for phase I of this multi phase effort will be available on or after March 25, 2009 at the Department of Public Works, Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan. No Pre proposal Conference is scheduled for this RFP. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. Joseph M. Inos Jr., Director of Technical Services Division and to Mr. Rosello R. Torres, Engineer, Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Oleai Center, Saipan or faxed to (670) 234 3547 no later than 4:30 p.m. local time April 17, 2009.

Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1. Qualifications of the company or individual	<b>30%</b>
2. Past Experience on similar projects	<b>40%</b>
3. Current workload and ability to perform the scope of work	<b>30%</b>

Technical merit and experience in traffic records, data collection, highway safety and expertise in Federal Section 408 Traffic Safety funding process is important in the selection criteria.

Proposals must be sealed and marked "**DPW09-RFP 015**". For proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time April 22, 2009. Proposers located outside of the CNNU may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a **Notice of Intent to Propose**. Notices of Intent to submit proposals must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, April 22, 2009 and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664 1515, or via email to [procurement@pticom.com](mailto:procurement@pticom.com). For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than April 22, 2009 and must be received no later May 1, 2009. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of proposal.

Discussions shall be conducted with at least three (3) of the responsible proposers who submit proposals determined to be most reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purposes of clarification and to insure full understanding of, and responsiveness to, solicitation requirements. A fee shall be negotiated with the highest qualified consulting firm at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the Government. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then another firm may be selected in the order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed. Award will be made to the responsible proposer whose proposal is determined to be most advantageous to the CNNU Government taking into consideration price and the evaluation criteria set out in this RFP. No other factors or criteria shall be used in the evaluation.

The successful proposer will be subject to a responsibility determination in compliance with Section 3 301 of the CNNU Procurement Regulations.

This procurement will be fully funded with federal highway safety funds.

All response to this RFP shall take into account all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded a contract for this project.

The Government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal in the best interest of the Government. All proposals shall become the property of the Government.

/s/ **DIEGO B. SONGSONG**  
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ **SANTIAGO F. TUDELA**  
Commissioner of Public Safety

# Nation

## Obama looking at cooling air to fight warming

WASHINGTON (AP)—Tinkering with Earth's climate to chill runaway global warming—a radical idea once dismissed out of hand—is being discussed by the White House as a potential emergency option, the president's new science adviser said Wednesday.

That's because global warming is happening so rapidly, John Holdren told The Associated Press in his first interview since being confirmed last month.

The concept of using technology to purposely cool the climate is called geoengineering. One option raised by Holdren and proposed by a Nobel Prize-winning scientist includes shooting pollution particles into

the upper atmosphere to reflect the sun's rays.

Using such an experimental measure is only being thought of as a last resort, Holdren said.

"It's got to be looked at," he said. "We don't have the luxury... of ruling any approach off the table."

His concern is that the United States and other nations won't slow global warming fast enough and that several "tipping points" could be fast approaching. Once such milestones are reached, such as complete loss of summer sea ice in the Arctic, it increases chances of "really intolerable consequences," he said.

Twice in a half-hour interview, Holdren compared global warming to being "in a car with bad brakes driving toward a cliff in the fog."

He and many experts believe that warming of a few degrees more would lead to disastrous drought conditions and food shortages in some regions, rising seas and more powerful coastal storms in others.

At first, Holdren characterized the potential need to technologically tinker with the climate as just his personal view. However, he went on to say he has raised it in administration discussions.

"We're talking about all these issues in the White House," Holdren said. "There's a very vigorous process going on of discussing all the options for

addressing the energy climate challenge."

Holdren said discussions include Cabinet officials and heads of sub-Cabinet level agencies, such as NASA and the Environmental Protection Agency.

The 65-year-old physicist is far from alone in taking geoengineering seriously. The National Academy of Sciences is making it the subject of the first workshop in its new climate challenges program for policymakers, scientists and the public. The British Parliament has also discussed the idea. At an international meeting of climate scientists last month in Copenhagen, 15 talks dealt with different aspects of geoengineering.

The American Meteorological Society is crafting a policy statement that says "it is prudent to consider geoengineering's potential, to understand its limits and to avoid rash deployment."

Last week, Princeton scientist Robert Socolow told the National Academy that geoengineering should be an available option in case climate worsens dramatically.

Holdren, a 1981 winner of a MacArthur Foundation "genius" grant, outlined these possible geoengineering options:

■ Shooting sulfur particles (like those produced by power plants and volcanoes, for example) into the upper atmosphere, an idea that gained steam when

it was proposed by Nobel laureate Paul Crutzen in 2006. It would be "basically mimicking the effect of volcanoes in screening out the incoming sunlight," Holdren said.

■ Creating artificial "trees"—giant towers that suck carbon dioxide out of the air and store it.

The first approach would "try to produce a cooling effect to offset the heating effect of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases," Holdren said.

But he said there could be grave side effects. Studies suggest that might include eating away a large chunk of the ozone layer above the poles and causing the Mediterranean and the Mideast to be much drier.

## Some criticize Calif. police in missing girl case

TRACY, Calif. (AP)—Police called the disappearance of 8-year-old Sandra Cantu a missing persons case, not an abduction, for 10 days—until some farm workers drained an irrigation pond and found her body stuffed in a suitcase. Some residents and a law-enforcement expert say authorities in Tracy should have publicly expressed more urgency about the case and warned of the danger that could be lurking in their Northern California community.

But police say that despite their initial uncertainty about Sandra's fate, they did everything they could, scouring the area, calling in reinforcements and exploring theories from dealing with a runaway to looking for a kidnapper.

"Until we had an indication that Sandra had been killed, we were treating this as a missing persons case," said Tracy police spokesman Sgt. Tony Sheneman.

"We had no indication of an

**Hijacked ship captain's family holds tense vigil**

UNDERHILL, Vt. (AP)—The family of hijacked ship captain Richard Phillips gathered in his Vermont farmhouse, anxiously watching news reports and taking telephone calls from the U.S. State Department to learn if he would be freed by Somali pirates off the Horn of Africa.

"We are on pins and needles," said Gina Coggio, 29, half-sister of Phillips' wife, Andrea, as she stood on the porch of his one-story house on Wednesday in a light snow. "I know the crew has been in touch with their own family members, and we're hoping we'll hear from Richard soon."

Phillips, 55, was taken hostage Wednesday after his unarmed U.S. crew wrested control of the Maersk Alabama from the pirates and sent them fleeing to a lifeboat—with Phillips as their bargaining chip.

abduction," he said. "We wanted to be as careful as possible."

Sandra's body was found Monday a few miles from her home. Police have interviewed hundreds of people and served more than 15 search warrants, including one at a local church, but say they have no suspects so far.

An autopsy on the girl has been completed, but results will not be available for several weeks, a coroner's spokesman said Wednesday. Officials declined to discuss any preliminary findings.

**Northern Mariana Islands**  
**RETIREMENT FUND**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS NO. RF09-059**

**"OFFICE SPACE LEASE/PURCHASE - ROTA"**

OPENING DATE: MARCH 16, 2009      CLOSING DATE: APRIL 15, 2009

To receive the RFP packet, you may mail-in, fax, or email your request to:

Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund  
P.O. Box 501247  
Saipan, MP 96950  
Fax No.: (670) 664-8080  
Email: administrator01@nmiretirement.com

Preference is available to U.S. citizens or permanent residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the proposal if preference is claimed.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**COMMONWEALTH LAW REVISION COMMISSION**

Commonwealth Law Revision Commission Office  
House of Justice/Guma Hustisia/Imwal Aweewe  
Susupe, Saipan

(JUDICIAL BRANCH)  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
Tuesday, April 15, 2009, 9:30 a.m.

### AGENDA

1. **Preliminary Matters**
  - A. Call to Order and Roll Call
  - B. Introductions
  - C. Meeting Notice
  - (Compliance with Open Govt. Act, 1 CMC '9901 *et seq.*)
2. **Old Business**
  - A. Review and Approval of August 8, 2008 Meeting Minutes
3. **Executive Director's Report**
  - A. 2007 CNMI Laws CD
  - B. Upcoming Products
  - C. Product Sales
  - D. Copyright issues
  - E. FY '08-'09 Budget (PL 16-32)
  - F. FY '09-'10 Budget Request
4. **New Business**
  - A. Proposed changes to website
5. **Other Business**
6. **Adjournment**

For further information or special accommodations, contact the Commission office at 236-9820 or [cnmilaw@itecnmi.com](mailto:cnmilaw@itecnmi.com)

### Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Office of the Secretary of Public Works

2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai  
Saipan, MP 96950



### SPECIAL PUBLIC NOTICE

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Department of Public Works (DPW), would like to notify the general public that the Territorial Transportation Improvement Plan (TTIP) for Fiscal Years 2009 through 2011 would be available for public comment beginning March 24, 2009.

The Federal-Aid Highway Program is a formula grant program that the CNMI Government receives annually from the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

Copies of the TTIP can be obtained from the Department of Public Works - Technical Services Division (TSD) at Suite 212, Joeten Oleai Center, Saipan. For those residing in Tinian and Rota copies may be obtained from the local Public Works Offices.

Questions and comments regarding the TTIP must be submitted in writing no later than 4:00 p.m. on April 21, 2009 to Mr. Joseph M. Inos, Jr., Director of Technical Services Division, DPW Technical Services Division, Suite 212, Joeten Oleai Center, or fax to (670) 235-6346.

### ARONGOL TOULAP

Sóumwar ye Benigno R. Fitial, Sów Lemelem me Timothy P. Villagomez, Sów Máng sángi Bwulasiyool Public Works (DPW) re kke arongaar aramas toulap bwe Territorial Transportation Improvement Plan (TTIP) reel rágk kka 2009 mwet ngáli 2011nge ebwe lo bwe toulap rebwe isisilong yaar mágemáng, ebwe bwél wóól Málip (Mótso) 24, 2009.

Progróoma ye Highway Federal-Aid nge formula grant program iye gobenool CNMI e ghal bwughi alongal ráagh mereel US Department of Transportation (USDOT) Federal Highway Administation (FHWA).

Tilighiyal TTIP nge emmwel ebwe bweibwogh mereel Bwulasiyool Public Works Technical Services Division (TSD) me Suite 212, Joeten Oleai Center, Seipél. Schóól Tchúlúyol me Luuta ebwe bweibwogh mereel bwulasiyool Public Works me lye.

Mágemáng me ayegh reel TTIP nge ebwe isisilong mmwal 4:00 lefáaf wóól Séétá (Abriid) 21, 2009, ngáli Joseph M. Inos, Jr., Samwoolul Technical Services Division DPW. Suite 212 Joeten Oleai Center me ngáre fax ngáli (670) 235-6346.

### ESPESIÅT NA NOTISIAN PUBLIKU

I Gobietno as Benigno R. Fitial yan i Segundo Gobietno as Timothy P. Villagomez, ginen i Dipattamenton Cho'cho' Pupbliku (DPW), malago' na para u notisia i pupbliku henerát na i Territorial Transportation Improvement Plan (TTIP) para i Fisikåt na Såkkán 2009 asta 2011 para u guaha opíñon pupbliku tinituhon gi Måtsø 24, 2009.

I Federal-Aid Highway Program i formula grant na programma na i Gobietnamenton CNMI ha risisibi kada såkkán ginen i U. S. Dipattamenton Transpottasian (USDOT), Atministrasian Federal Highway (FHWA).

Kopia siha pot i TTIP siña ha mahenta ginen i Dipattamenton Cho'cho' Pupbliku Dibision Setbision Teknikåt (TSD) gi Suite 212, gi Joeten Oleai Center, Saipan. Para todú ayu siha i mañásaga Tinian yan Luta kopia siha siña mahenta ginen i Ofisinan Cho'cho' Pupbliku siha.

Kuestion yan opíñon siha pot i TTIP debi na u mana'hålom i opion tinige' ántes di alas kuåtro (4:00)gi despues di talo'åni. gi Abrit 21, 2009 guatu gi as Siñot Joseph M. Inos, Jr., Direktot i Dibision Setbision Teknikat, DPW Dibision Setbision Teknikåt siha, Suite 212, Joeten Oleai Center, pat fax guatu gi (670) 235-6346.

/s/ DIEGO B. SONGSONG  
Secretary of Public Works

# Asia

## All eyes on NKorea's Kim at opening of parliament

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—

North Korea's rubber-stamp parliament appointed Kim Jong Il to a third term Thursday as leader of one of the world's most reclusive nations, buoyed by a rocket launch heralded in state media as "historic" but assailed elsewhere as provocative.

State media said lawmakers approved Kim as chairman of the powerful National Defense Commission at the opening session of the new parliament, an appointment that under the constitution makes him the nation's

top leader.

But there was no confirmation in a noon (0300 GMT) broadcast on state TV that Kim himself was presiding over the session in what would be his first major public appearance since reportedly suffering a stroke last August.

Kim, 67, fell out of sight in mid-August. He failed to attend a milestone 60th anniversary parade in September, a no-show that sparked concerns about his health and fears of a succession crisis in the nuclear-armed nation. Pyong-

yang denies he was ill.

Kim re-emerged in state media in early October and has steadily made "on-the-spot field guidance" of farms, factories and military units in an energetic tour widely seen as an attempt to squelch rumors about his health.

Starting at 9 a.m. (0000 GMT) Thursday, state TV aired an unusual daytime broadcast trumpeting Kim and his leadership, showing undated footage of him meeting with soldiers and workers

as well as troops hard at work. State TV typically doesn't go on air until the 5 p.m. news, except on special occasions.

The lengthy patriotic montage touted the country's best, with the military featured prominently in nearly every scene. Soldiers fired tanks, flew MiG fighter jets, went on patrol as the sun set and—dressed in white T-shirts but still wearing their military caps—helped smiling farmers in lush fields and singing fishermen with nets packed with bountiful catches.

## 100,000 Thais rally against royal adviser

BANGKOK (AP)—About

100,000 protesters seeking to topple Thailand's government turned their wrath Wednesday on the 88-year-old top adviser to the country's revered king, accusing him of undermining democracy by orchestrating a pivotal 2006 coup.

King Bhumibol Adulyadej, 81, is widely revered, and by tradition the utmost respect has also been extended to palace circles around him. To issue public attacks on his top adviser is unprecedented in recent Thai history.

Wednesday's protest could be another watershed moment in political turmoil that has shaken Thailand since demonstrations calling for Thaksin to step down for alleged corruption and abuse of power led to the 2006 coup.

Thaksin's allies went back into office after post-coup elections, but the anti-Thaksin movement gained momentum through last year. Anti-Thaksin activists—the yellow-shirted People's Alliance for Democracy—helped topple two pro-Thaksin governments by occupying the prime minister's offices for three months and seizing Bangkok's two airports for a week.

The yellow shirts ended their protests in December after courts removed two pro-Thaksin prime ministers from office and dissolved their parties, paving the way for Abhisit to take power in parliament in December.

They also demanded that current Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva quit his post.

Red-shirted protesters clapped and cheered as their leaders delivered fiery speeches to denounce Prem, a former army commander and prime minister, and to accuse the country's military, judiciary and other unelected officials of interfering in politics.

"Stop pulling strings from behind the scenes for the benefit of a few people you support at the expense of the majority," shouted Jatuporn Phromphan, a protest leader. "We will not tolerate that!"

Prem, who has denied any involvement in the coup, remained inside his home while

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### Philippine police find chopper wreckage, 7 bodies

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Rescuers found the burned wreckage of a missing helicopter Wednesday that had been carrying key aides of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, including a general and two Cabinet members, officials said. Seven bodies were recovered. Rescuers were still looking for one person who was aboard the air force Bell 412 helicopter when it disappeared Tuesday in bad weather and low clouds that obscured visibility over the northern Philippines' rugged Cordillera mountain range, Ifugao Gov. Teddy Baguilat said. The helicopter crashed in a mountain rain forest near Tinoc township in Ifugao province. A team of policemen reached the site after hiking for hours in a heavy rain, officials said. Among those aboard were Arroyo's senior military aide Brig. Gen. Carlos Clet, Press Undersecretary Jose Capadocia and the president's appointments secretary, Marilou Frostrom. Both Capadocia and Frostrom were Cabinet undersecretaries. The five others included the two pilots, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said.

#### Indonesians vote for new parliament

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Indonesians began voting Thursday in parliamentary elections that could determine if President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono will have enough support to win a second five-year term needed to push through aggressive economic and institutional reforms. The vote will also test the role of Islamic parties in politics. Violence flared hours before the first polling stations opened in the easternmost province of Papua, the scene of a decades-long insurgency, killing at least six people, said local police chief Maj. Gen. Bagus Ekodanto. But by midmorning the situation appeared calm, with long lines forming as people waited to cast ballots.

#### Suicide bomber kills 5 Afghan police

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (AP)—A suicide bomber on foot attacked a drug eradication unit in southern Afghanistan on Thursday, killing five police officers and wounded four others, a police official said. The attacker struck the patrol in Lashkar Gah, the capital of Helmand province, a major drug-producing province said Kamal Uddin, the deputy provincial police chief. Two police vehicles were damaged in the explosion, Uddin said. Afghanistan is the world's largest producer of opium, the main ingredient in heroin. The Afghan drug trade accounts for 90 percent of worldwide production. The U.N. estimated last year that up to \$500 million from the illegal drug trade flows to Taliban fighters and criminal groups.



NOTICE OF SALE  
UNDER POWER OF SALE  
IN DEED OF TRUST

IGNACIO A. CABRERA AND ANA B. CABRERA (collectively "Trustor"), on or about October 20, 1983, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on October 21, 1983 under Document No. 83-90 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereinafter described:

LOT NO. 006 T 18, AND CONTAINING AN AREA OF 901 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED ON DRAWING/CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 006 T 01, THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH WAS REGISTERED WITH THE LAND REGISTRY AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 18011, ON THE 7TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 1983.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on December 10, 2008. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on April 17, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than \$56,330.00. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than April 16, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than April 16, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 16th day of March, 2009.

/S/JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO  
Corporate Director, NMHC

NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency



NOTICE OF SALE  
UNDER POWER OF SALE  
IN DEED OF TRUST

GINA K. SOMORANG/ SOLEDAD K. SOMORANG AND MIGUEL O. SOMORANG (collectively "Trustor"), on or about May 02, 1984, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on May 03, 1984, under Document No. 84-686 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereinafter described:

LOT NO. 005 I 548, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 885 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS SHOWN ON THE DIVISION OF LANDS AND SURVEYS OFFICIAL CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 2084/82, THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH WAS REGISTERED WITH THE LAND REGISTRY AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 14232 DATED MAY 14, 1982, THE DESCRIPTION THEREIN BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on November 24, 2008. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on April 17, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than \$38,130.00. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

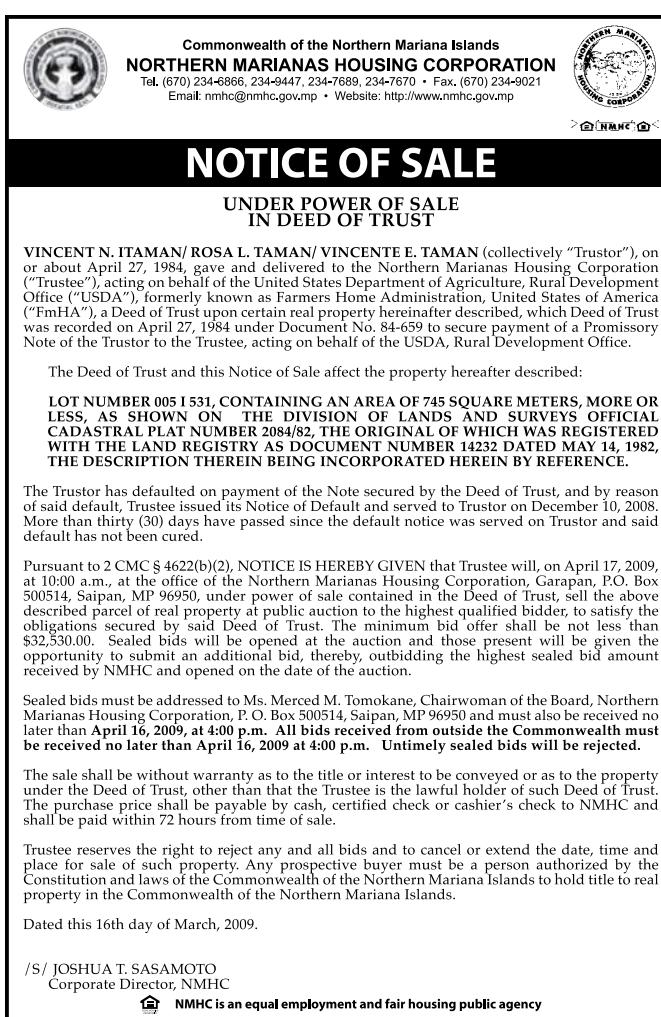
Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than April 16, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than April 16, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Dated this 16th day of March, 2009.

/S/JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO  
Corporate Director, NMHC

NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency



# World

## Crew retakes US ship from Somali pirates

**NAIROBI, Kenya** (AP)—In a riveting high-seas drama, an unarmed American crew wrested control of their U.S.-flagged cargo ship from Somali pirates Wednesday and sent them fleeing to a lifeboat with the captain as hostage.

The destroyer USS *Bainbridge*, one of a half dozen warships that headed for the area, arrived at the scene Thursday morning a few hours before dawn, said Kevin Speers, a spokesman for the company

that owns the Maersk Alabama. He said the boat with the pirates was floating near the ship, the first with an American crew to be taken by pirates off the Horn of Africa.

Speers said officials were waiting to see what happens when the sun comes up. Crew members had been negotiating with the pirates Wednesday for the return of the captain.

A family member said Capt. Richard Phillips surrendered himself to the pirates to secure

the safety of the crew.

“What I understand is that he offered himself as the hostage,” said Gina Coggio, 29, half sister of Phillips’ wife.

“That is what he would do. It’s just who he is and his responsibility as a captain.”

Details of the day’s events emerged sporadically as members of the crew were reached by satellite phone, providing a glimpse of the maneuvering.

A sailor who spoke to The Associated Press said the entire 20-member crew had been taken hostage but managed to seize

one pirate and then successfully negotiated their own release. The man did not identify himself during the brief conversation.

The crisis played out hundreds of miles off the coast of Somalia—one of the most lawless nations on earth. President Barack

Obama was following the situation closely, foreign policy adviser Denis McDonough said.

The *Maersk Alabama* was the sixth vessel seized by Somali pirates in a week. Pirates have staged 66 attacks since January, and they are still holding 14 ships and 260 crew members as hostages, according to the International Maritime Bureau, a watchdog group based in Kuala Lumpur.

Somalia’s 1,900-mile (3,057-kilometer) long coastline bor-

ders one of the world’s busiest shipping lanes and offers a perfect haven to the heavily armed pirate gangs. They often dress in military fatigues and use GPS systems and satellite phones to coordinate attacks from small, fast speedboats resupplied by a larger “mother ship.”

The pirates usually use rocket-propelled grenades, anti-tank rocket launchers and automatic weapons to capture large, slow-moving vessels like the U.S.-flagged 17,000-ton *Maersk Alabama*, which was carrying food aid from USAID and other agencies to help malnourished people in Uganda and Somalia.

## Quake funerals begin in Italy as more bodies found

**L’AQUILA, Italy** (AP)—Bells tolled in hilltowns across central Italy on Wednesday as the first funerals got under way for victims of the country’s devastating earthquake. The Vatican granted a dispensation so a funeral Mass for most of the 272 dead could be celebrated on Good Friday.

As more bodies were pulled from the rubble, some of the 28,000 homeless spent another day lining up for food and water at some of the 20 tent camps that have sprouted up around this quake-devastated city.

Pope Benedict XVI said he would visit the area soon.

Rescue efforts continued for the 15 people still missing, but officials began discussing rebuilding the stricken region and reopening schools. They stressed it would take a month or two to have a clear idea of the extent of the damage.

“For now the needs are basic. The people in the camps, they don’t have toothbrushes, they don’t have toothpaste,” said

Massimo Cialente, mayor of the hard-hit city of L’Aquila. “You can’t find a place to buy cigarettes or get a coffee.”

The magnitude-6.3 quake hit L’Aquila and several towns covering 230 square miles (600 square kilometers) in central Italy early Monday, leveling buildings and reducing entire blocks to piles of rubble. It was the worst quake to hit Italy in three decades.

The death toll stood at 272, six of whom hadn’t been identified, the ANSA news agency reported, citing carabinieri police. Sixteen of the dead were children, Premier Silvio Berlusconi said.

Of the injured, 100 remained in serious condition, he said.

One 98-year-old survivor, rescued by firemen in the hamlet of Tempea 30 hours after quake, said in an interview on private Italia Uno TV network, that while she lay in her bed, surrounded by pieces of fallen plaster, she passed the time by crocheting.

### WORLD BRIEFS

#### Iran charges American journalist with espionage

**TEHRAN, Iran** (AP)—An American journalist jailed for more than two months in Iran has been charged with spying for the U.S., a judge said Wednesday, dashing hopes of a quick release days after her parents arrived in the country seeking her freedom. The espionage charge is far more serious than earlier statements by Iranian officials that the woman had been arrested for working in the Islamic Republic without press credentials and her own assertion in a phone call to her father that she was arrested after buying a bottle of wine. Roxana Saberi, who grew up in Fargo, North Dakota, and is a dual citizen of the U.S. and Iran, has been living in Iran for six years. She has reported from there for several news organizations, including National Public Radio and the British Broadcasting Corp. An investigative judge involved in the case told state TV that Saberi was passing classified information to U.S. intelligence services.

#### Palestinians: 8 wounded by Israeli troops in clash

**SAFA, West Bank** (AP)—Stone-throwing Israeli settlers and Palestinian villagers clashed near the site of an ax attack last week that killed a Jewish teenager, leaving at least eight Palestinians wounded. The Palestinians were wounded when Israeli troops fired tear gas and live ammunition to break up the disturbances, medics said. One person was in serious condition. Safa and the neighboring Jewish settlement of Bat Ayin have a long history of poor relations. But tensions have been heightened since a Palestinian wielding a pickax last week killed a 13-year-old boy and wounded a 7-year-old boy. The assailant fled and has not been caught.

#### RELATED NEWS

##### Hijacked ship captain’s family holds tense vigil

##### PAGE 21

Details of the day’s events emerged sporadically as members of the crew were reached by satellite phone, providing a glimpse of the maneuvering.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION  
Tel. (670) 234-6866, 234-9447, 234-7689, 234-7670 • Fax. (670) 234-9021  
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

#### NOTICE OF SALE

##### UNDER POWER OF SALE IN DEED OF TRUST

LUCIA M. DELEON GUERRERO (“Trustor”), on or about May 23, 1985, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (“Trustee”), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office (“USDA”), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America (“FmHA”), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on May 23, 1985, under Document No. 85-0991 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereinafter described:

TRACT NUMBER 20472-6, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 907 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED ON DRAWING/CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 2064/82, THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH WAS REGISTERED WITH THE LAND COMMISSION AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 14154, ON THE 26TH OF MARCH, 1982.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on November 24, 2008. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on April 17, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than \$85,730.00. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than April 16, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than April 16, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier’s check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Dated this 17th day of March, 2009.

/S/JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO  
Corporate Director, NMHC  
NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency



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Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

#### NOTICE OF SALE

##### UNDER POWER OF SALE IN DEED OF TRUST

VANESSA C. IGINOEF/ VALERIO MENDIOLA CABRERA AND MARIANA ALDAN CABRERA (collectively “Trustor”), on or about June 21, 1985, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (“Trustee”), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office (“USDA”), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America (“FmHA”), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on June 26, 1985, under Document No. 85-1210 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereinafter described:

LOT NUMBER 011 H 16, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 621 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED ON DRAWING/CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 011 H 00, THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH WAS REGISTERED WITH THE LAND REGISTRY AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 702, ON THE 1ST DAY OF MARCH, 1971.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on November 24, 2008. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on April 17, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than \$40,230.00. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than April 16, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than April 16, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier’s check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Dated this 16th day of March, 2009.

/S/JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO  
Corporate Director, NMHC  
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Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

#### NOTICE OF SALE

##### UNDER POWER OF SALE IN DEED OF TRUST

REGINA T. CASTRO (“Trustor”), on or about October 23, 1984, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (“Trustee”), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office (“USDA”), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America (“FmHA”), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on October 23, 1984, under Document No. 84-2264 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereinafter described:

LOT NUMBER 005 B 09, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 407 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED ON DRAWING/CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 005 B 00, THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH WAS REGISTERED WITH THE LAND REGISTRY AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 832, ON THE 9TH DAY OF JUNE, 1971.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on November 24, 2008. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on April 17, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than \$53,330.00. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than April 16, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than April 16, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier’s check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Dated this 16th day of March, 2009.

/S/JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO  
Corporate Director, NMHC  
NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency

# Off The Wall

## Woman returns missing \$357.9K cashiers check

LOS ANGELES (AP)—As she walked from a post office, Talon Curtis thought she'd found one of those gimmicky sweepstakes offers on the ground that scream something like "\$357,959.55" in big bold letters and "This is not a real check" in much smaller type. But just as she was about to do her part for a cleaner planet and deliver the paper from the parking lot to a trash can, she noticed it was a real cashier's check with a real signature.

"I couldn't believe it. I almost passed out," Curtis, who works as a loan negotiator, told The Associated Press

on Wednesday. "I have never seen a check that big. Not in my possession, anyway."

She immediately set out to find its rightful recipient, but it was Saturday afternoon and the banks were closing. On Monday, with help from KCAL-TV reporter Dave Malhoff, she located the check's owner, who had arrived at her bank in a panic.

"I think she had walked in at the same time the bank manager called me back," Curtis said. "I could hear her walking up to him and I could hear all this commotion in the background."

Curtis said she spoke briefly

with the woman on the phone about a possible meeting, but Pacific Mercantile Bank instructed her to mail the check to them instead.

Not willing to take a chance on the mail, Curtis delivered it personally. A bank employee confirmed it had arrived.

Curtis said she never thought of keeping the check for herself, and she declined the woman's offer of a reward. Still, she's just a little disappointed.

"I just wanted to see her face," Curtis said, laughing. "I just wanted to let her know that there are honest people left in this world."

## Man causing real stink gets stabbed

WACO, Texas (AP)—A man was stabbed after causing a stink—literally—in a motel room while eating with a friend, police said. Five men from the Houston area were sharing a Waco motel room Tuesday night, and two were inside the room eating when one had a flatulence problem, Waco police Officer Steve Anderson said. One man was so upset about the gas that he threw a

large knife at him, cutting his leg, and then stabbed him in the chest, Anderson said.

The 35-year-old man was transported to a Waco hospital, where he was treated for what appeared to be non-life threatening injuries, Anderson said.

Jose Braule Ramirez, 33, of Houston, was charged with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, police said. He was arraigned Wednes-

day and was being held in the McLennan County Jail on \$15,000 bond and placed on an immigration hold, according to jail records. He cannot be released, even if he posts bond, until authorities verify he is in the country legally.

A jail spokeswoman who declined to give her name said she was not allowed to release information on whether Ramirez had an attorney.

### OFFBEAT BRIEFS

#### Woman's tofu license plate curdles in Colo.

DENVER (AP)—One Colorado woman's love for tofu has been judged X-rated by state officials. Kelly Coffman-Lee wanted to tell the world about her fondness for bean curd by picking certain letters for her SUV's license plate. Her suggestion for the plate: "ILVTOFU." But the Division of Motor Vehicles blocked her plan because they thought the combination of letters could be interpreted as profane. Says Department of Revenue spokesman Mark Couch: "We don't allow 'FU' because some people could read that as street language for sex." Officials meet periodically to ensure state plates stay free of letters that abbreviate gang slang, drug terms or obscene phrases. The 38-year-old Coffman-Lee says tofu is a staple of her family's diet because they are vegan and that the DMV misinterpreted her message.

#### Man accidentally shoots himself at drive-through

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP)—A stop at a fast-food restaurant's drive-through on Tuesday afternoon led to a trip to the hospital after a man accidentally shot himself in the leg with a pistol. The 24-year-old man was apparently trying to clear the weapon when it went off and hit

him in the calf. Police said the man didn't need a permit because the gun wasn't concealed, so he didn't break any laws. His name was not released.

#### Man charged for drunken joy ride in school bus

EL DORADO, Ark. (AP)—Police in Arkansas say a drunken man stole a parked school bus and then asked a woman if she wanted to go for a ride. Police say 44-year-old Joseph P. Fannin faces theft and driving while intoxicated charges for the incident Friday night. He remains held on \$5,000 bond. Police say Fannin took an El Dorado School District bus parked near a bar and left it in a motel driveway. They say a woman called them after Fannin asked if she wanted a ride. Police say Fannin told them he'd been kicked out of the bar and got into the bus because it was "a warm, dry place." The school district says the driver was out of town and that the keys must've been left behind.

#### Woman follows GPS, gets stuck in snowmobile trail

LANGLADE, Wis. (AP)—A motorist relying on a GPS navigation unit found out the hard way that technology is not always the answer. Sheriff's officials said a woman was driving when the best routing from the GPS sent her onto a road that

forked into a snowmobile trail. Several miles down the frozen path she stopped and couldn't turn around in about a foot and a half of snow surrounding the car. She called 911 at 10:44 a.m. Deputy Keith Svoboda said it took a while to find her and much longer to get heavy equipment in to free the vehicle. Deputies dropped her at a motel for the night. Svoboda said the lesson is, "People shouldn't believe everything those things tell you."

#### Twin twitches: Conn. pet shop has two-nosed bunny

MILFORD, Conn. (AP)—It's no April Fools joke. The baby bunny really does have two noses. A Connecticut pet shop worker found the nosey bunny in a delivery of 6-week-old dwarf rabbits that arrived at the Milford store last week. Both noses have two nostrils. The owner of the Purr-Fect Pets shop says he's never seen anything like it in 25 years in the business. He says the bunny eats, drinks and hops around like the rest of the litter. Beardsley Zoo director Gregg Dancho says the deformity could be the result of too much inbreeding or the parents' exposure to pesticides or poisons. Store workers have begun a naming contest with Cyrano de Bergerac and Deuce among the contenders so far.

The Internet Storm Center, a project of the Bethesda, Md.-based SANS Institute, maintains a list of links to Conficker-removal tools from

# Science & Technology

## Facebook users hit 200M

NEW YORK (AP)—In less than eight months, Facebook has doubled its user base by signing up 100 million people from around the world, officially hitting 200 million on Wednesday.

Its population is now higher than Brazil's and Japan's.

The ubiquitous online hangout, available only to college students when it opened in 2004, has been growing rapidly since opening up to anyone who wants to sign up.

But how long can that continue?

After a meteoric rise, News Corp.-owned MySpace has

petered off and now has roughly 130 million active users, according to comScore Inc. Facebook could ultimately plateau as well. After all, while there are more than a billion people connected to the Internet, that doesn't mean they



all want to be on Facebook.

Still, even if it's inevitable that Facebook's growth will slow down at some point as the site runs out of prospects to convert, Facebook continues to change what it has to offer, meaning today's holdouts might decide later to join after all.

"What's striking to me is how Facebook has become a kind of dashboard for Internet users," said Lee Rainie, director of the Pew Internet and American Life Project.

He said Facebook, along with MySpace and other social sites like Orkut from Google Inc. or Bebo from Time Warner Inc.'s AOL, have clearly changed the online experience for many people.

Facebook's expansion has been peppered by growing pains, from concerns about how it handles users' private information to site redesigns that irked tens of thousands.

### CONSUMER TECHNOLOGY TIPS

By ROB PEGORARO

(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

If you've been collecting music on your computer for long enough and from enough sources, it's easy to wind up with more than one copy of a song. To find these extras in Apple's iTunes program, select your music library in the left-hand sidebar, go to the File menu and select "Show Duplicates".

You will now see a list of songs with the same, or almost the same, title and artist. Some of these aren't real duplicates (for instance, when one version of a song comes from a live album). But in many other cases you'll see that you've accumulated multiple copies without noticing it. This often happens when you rip a compilation album, like a movie soundtrack, that overlaps with other recordings. But it can also occur after upgrading an iTunes Store purchase to Apple's higher-quality, no-usage-limits-attached iTunes Plus format; iTunes is supposed to delete the old copy but can forget to do that when the new, iTunes Plus download has a slightly different artist, album or title.

■ ■ ■

Those little flash-memory USB storage devices—you may call them flash drives, USB keys, keychain drives, memory sticks or whatever

Q. How can I tell if my computer has been hit by Conficker? How would I remove it?

A. This virus (sometimes called Downadup) has been infecting Windows computers for the past several months. It's an exceptionally persistent, aggressive threat. It can spread over shared flash-memory drives, and the most recent variant even blocks access to Web sites of security-software vendors. (If you can't reach microsoft.com, your PC is in trouble.)

On April 1, copies of Conficker may download extra-malicious code—to do what remains unclear—so you'd better make sure your PC is clean before then.

The Internet Storm Center, a project of the Bethesda, Md.-based SANS Institute, maintains a list of links to Conficker-removal tools from

are far more useful than the floppy disks they've replaced. But if you have more than a few lying around, you may have trouble remembering which ones have the most space available. Even plugging them into the computer won't answer that immediately (since Windows XP somehow fails to list their capacity under the My Computer window's "Details" heading). Meanwhile, most flash drives don't exactly have interesting names of their own. So instead, try naming each drive after its capacity: "2 GB drive," "512MB key," and so on.

■ ■ ■

When an old camera or phone dies, you're often stuck with a proprietary battery charger or cradle and data cable that won't work with your next model. But that doesn't mean you have to toss those old accessories. Try re-selling them instead: Odds are, somebody out there either lost the same component or wants a spare. Over the years, I've had pretty good luck auctioning off a variety of leftover, otherwise-useless gadget parts on eBay. I haven't made much money on any one sale (searching through completed listings on eBay usually works to determine a fair market value), but my total earnings add up to a decent chunk of the cost of the digital camera I'm about to buy. Which, I should add, will run off AA batteries and use a standard USB cable.

### HELP FILE

By ROB PEGORARO

(C) 2009, The Washington Post



numerous security-software developers (isc.sans.org/diary.html?storyid=5860). Since Conficker can stop you from getting to that page and those links, you may need to borrow an uninfected machine to download a removal tool. Some vendors also have set up alternate Web addresses that Conficker doesn't know about; for instance, try fsecure.com or bdtools.net for free Conficker fixes from F-Secure and BitDefender.

Of course, if you've set Windows to install Microsoft security patches automatically and have kept your anti-virus utility

current, you should be safe. So if you haven't been downloading those updates, now would be a swell time to start.

■ ■ ■

Q. My four-year-old laptop's screen has gone almost completely dark. Can I fix that?

A. The small fluorescent backlight inside the screen has broken or burned out. A computer store should be able to replace it, but that can easily cost several hundred dollars. You may find that it makes more sense to scrap the old computer and buy a new one.

# Life & Style

## Another 'American Idol' finalist eliminated



In this photo provided by FOX, Scott MacIntyre performs in front of the judges on American Idol on Wednesday, April 8, 2009 in Los Angeles.

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—After much clamoring from the judges, the competition is over for Scott MacIntyre on "American Idol." The 23-year-old piano player from Scottsdale, Ariz., who crooned Survivor's "The Search is Over" in hopes of being saved by the judges, received the fewest number of viewer votes Wednesday on the popular Fox singing competition.

"This is really tough," judge Simon Cowell said after Ma-

## Joaquin Phoenix II? Billy Bob gives odd interview

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Joaquin, you have competition. In a radio appearance reminiscent of David's Letterman's recent interview with actor-turned-rapper Joaquin Phoenix, Billy Bob Thornton gave a puzzling and difficult interview Wednesday.

Appearing on CBC radio, the Canadian public broadcaster, Thornton evaded simple questions and criticized the host for mentioning his movie background.

Thornton appeared on the show with his band, the Boxmasters, who are on tour with Willie Nelson.

When host Jian Ghomeshi asked Thornton when the band formed, Thornton said: "I don't know what you're talking about."

Thornton mostly gave brief, sometimes monosyllabic, answers. Asked what music he listened to when he was young, Thornton spoke about reading the magazine Famous Monsters of Filmland.

The actor took offense when Ghomeshi suggested he was passionate about music.



Thornton

were instructed not to talk about ... like that," said Thornton, using an expletive.

Ghomeshi, who's also in the band Moxy Fruvous, replied that he was "just giving context." The host said he was pleased to simply talk about music and pointed out Thornton's band was getting attention partially because of the career he's had.

The 53-year-old Thornton won an Academy Award for

before the final five finalists are selected. Cowell said two of the show's four judges wanted MacIntyre to stay while the other two wanted him to go. MacIntyre pleaded to remain in the competition as the judges bickered and audience hollered.

"I know I can please you another week, Simon," MacIntyre said.

The judges decided not to rescue MacIntyre. Joining him as the bottom three vote-getters were 24-year-old mother of three Lil Rounds from Memphis, Tenn., and 22-year-old college student Anoop Desai from Chapel Hill, N.C.

"Idol" host Ryan Seacrest said only 30,000 of the 34 million viewer votes cast this week separated MacIntyre from Desai.

The parade of praise also continued for Adam Lambert, the 27-year-old actor who earned a standing ovation Tuesday from Cowell after performing Gary Jules' arrangement of Tears for Fears' "Mad World." The other judges echoed the sentiment Wednesday because they did not have time to comment on Tuesday's performance show, which ran eight minutes over schedule.

"I was extremely honored," Lambert said of Cowell's standing ovation. "I really appreciate that gesture. There's really nothing else I can say. I have never seen that before. I have been watching the show for eight years. I'm flattered."

The seven contestants who remain in the singing competition are Lambert, Desai, Rounds, Kris Allen, Danny Gokey, Matt Giraud and Allison Iraheta.

## "Would you say that to Tom Petty?" asked Thornton.

Thornton eventually made it clear that he was angry with Ghomeshi for his introduction.

Ghomeshi began the show introducing the band by focusing on their music and prodigious output in less than two years. He did, though, introduce Thornton as an

"Oscar-winning screen-writer, actor and director."

"Y ou

his screenplay to 1996's "Sling Blade," which he also starred in and directed. This year he stars in "Manure," which played at the Sundance Film Festival, and "The Informers," which comes out later this month.

A lifelong musician, he appeared sensitive to any suggestion that music was a mere "hobby."

The interview, available to stream on <http://www.cbc.ca/q/> and on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/user/Qtv>, was receiving hundreds of comments from listeners who almost uniformly lambasted Thornton.

After the interview, the band performed an instrumental tune without Thornton - who didn't have his instrument. "I'm a drummer ... We don't care those around at 6 o'clock in the morning," Thornton said.

Speaking by phone later, Ghomeshi said: "To not answer questions because I made the apparently egregious mistake of calling him an actor as well as a musician, it just seemed a little absurd."



## Death and Funeral Announcement

### Juana San Nicolas Manglona

Born to Life: December 24, 1960  
Eternal Rest: April 2, 2009

#### Preceded in death by:

Parents: †Vicente S. Sablan †Juana Manglona Pangelinan  
Parents In-Law: †Jose M. Hocog †Candida Ada  
Sister: †Anuncia P. Cabrera  
Sister In-Law: †Maria H. Reyes  
Brother In-Law: †Antonio A. Hocog

#### Brothers & Sister In-laws:

Estanislao & Bernadita Hocog & children  
Juana & Lino Lizama & children  
Diana & Arsene Borja & children  
Jose & Sinfirosa Hocog & children  
Felisima & Guillermo Hocog & children  
Miguel Hocog  
Luciana Hocog

Nightly rosary is held at Tinian San Jose Parish Church at 7:30 p.m.

The remains of the late Juana San Nicolas Manglona will be on Tinian Friday, April 10, 2009 at 12:00 p.m.

Memorial service will be on Tuesday, April 14, 2009 at 8:00 a.m., Interment will follow at 11:00 a.m., Tinian cemetery.

She will be forever loved and remembered by family and friends. And her memories will forever remain in our hearts.

## In Humble Gratitude

We give praise and thanksgiving to God for YOU, our families and friends who are the source of our strength during this painful time at the loss of my beloved husband Eddie, the pillar of our family and loving father of our children. Your thoughtful prayers, comforting words and other considerate acts grace did much to calm the ache in our hearts.

Thank you for joining my Mother-in-law, Grandma "Chana", my sister-in-law, brother-in-law, nieces and nephews in the daily Mass and Rosary offered for Eddie.

Be assured of our prayers and humble gratitude and know that you will always have a special place in our hearts, and God willing, we pray to welcome you into our home as we continue to carry the tradition that Eddie had instilled in our children. For we know Eddie is always with us in our hearts and mind guiding us in the right path.

**Special Thanks to Margarita M./Antonio Reyes, Mariano R./Barbara Mendiola, Calistro R./Patricia Mendiola, Florentina M./Juan Reyes, Francisco R. Mendiola, Richard R. Mendiola, Bertha M./Joseph Palacios, Theresa M./Robert Guerrero, Christina M./Jose Babauta, Joe & Cecile Manahane, Henry & Emily Cabrera, Governor Benigno Fitial, and to Auntie Carmen Gaskin for all the prayers and preparation on the services and to family, friends and relatives who came to the services.**

Thank you, Si Yu's Ma'ase, Maraming Salamat Po, and Mahalo for your love and kindness and may God continue to bless us all.

**Mimi (Ivy), William, Patrick, Naomi and Kanoe Mendiola (Hawaii)**



# Michael Caine's lifetime of achievement

By SUSAN KING  
(C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES

**BEVERLY HILLS, Calif.**—It's a long road from the projects of south London to the Peninsula Hotel in Beverly Hills, where Michael Caine is reflecting on his rough-and-tumble roots. "It's called the Elephant Castle," recalls Caine, who retains the Cockney accent—and the lack of pretension—of his childhood home. "It's very, very rough."

The memories are fresh in his mind because the two-time Oscar winner ("Hannah and Her Sisters," "The Cider House Rules") recently completed a movie, "Harry Brown," in his old neighborhood. "It was quite amazing," he says of his return. "There was a mural with me on it and Charlie Chaplin, who is from there as well. It's Charlie Chaplin in 'The Kid' and me with my mum."

He was shocked, though, at how much nastier the area had become. "An English guy was interviewing me and said, 'How different is it now?' I said much tougher. We didn't have drugs. We had alcohol. We used to get (drunk) and pass out. You didn't have to knock down an old lady to get the price of a beer. At least they were knocking these places down."

Caine, who has given indelible performance after indelible performance in the last four decades in such films as "Alfie," "The Man Who Would Be King" and "The Dark Knight," is in town from his home in England to talk about his latest movie, "Is There Anybody There?", which opens April 17. He also was scheduled to receive ShoWest's lifetime achievement award in Las Vegas on Thursday evening.

"It's an extraordinary thing to get," says Caine, trim and fit at 76, of the honor from the movie exhibitors' convention. "They are tough. There is no sentiment there. I have been to ShoWest before. They are not a namby-pamby crowd."

But you'd be hard-pressed to find anybody saying an unkind word about Caine as an actor or as a person.

"He is the actor of actors," says Mitch Neuhauser, co-managing director of ShoWest. "The breadth of his work is just enormous, and there's no genre or type of film that depicts a Michael Caine role. What makes this tribute at ShoWest so appropriate and so meaningful is that over the course of his career he has been responsible for providing hours and hours of entertainment for moviegoers worldwide."



LOS ANGELES TIMES

Michael Caine, soon to be seen in "Is Anybody There?" has shuttled between mainstream fare and smaller indie projects.

"He always makes it look easy and natural," adds film critic-historian Leonard Maltin. "That is the mark of a true artist. He started out as a young stud leading man but then showed he had skills to back up his char-

risma, so he earned respect to go along with his stardom."

Caine, born Maurice Micklewhite, reinvented himself again as he got older. "He didn't shy away from character parts," says Maltin. He always

found a way to bring color and life to any role he played. He's a very skilled craftsman, as he proved in a series of illustrated lectures (on the craft of acting) he did some years ago for the BBC, but he never lets you

know the wheels are turning."

In a way, Caine became a role model for younger movie stars by toggling between mainstream fare and smaller indie projects, such as "Is There Anybody There?" In the touching drama directed by John Crowley ("Boy A"), Caine plays Clarence, a grumpy old magician who arrives unwillingly to live in an old-folks' home. It doesn't take long, though, for Clarence to befriend Edward (Bill Milner), the 10-year-old son of the home's owners. As Clarence disappears further into senility, Edward becomes his caretaker.

"One of my closest friends—he was only 68—just died of Alzheimer's," says Caine softly. "I know of where I speak."

Perhaps it's that deep connection with dementia that allowed Caine to give such a naked performance—Clarence wears his emotions on his sleeve, including crying over the loss of his past life and getting angry when he can't remember who he is.

"Dougie having dementia was a reason I wanted to do it," says Caine. "But also from a purely selfish point of view, it was a hell of a part to do. I'm now looking for things that are different and stretch me. I don't work very much. So a movie sort of has to grab me."

## Martha Stewart on crafts, host gifts and Twitter

By JURA KONCIUS  
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

Martha Stewart has a plan for how everyone can endure the economic crisis: by glittering, embossing and beading.

Stewart is doing her part to keep us gilding and quilling with the publication last week of "Martha Stewart's Encyclopedia of Crafts" (Potter Craft, \$35), a 416-page volume with 700 photos plus templates, lists of tools and materials guides. This A-to-Z compendium of more than 200 craft projects will be followed next year by volume two, an encyclopedia of sewing-related crafts.

Like just about everything Stewart does, the new book is exhaustive, and it is exhausting. The encyclopedia speaks to the nearly 60 percent of American households that participate in crafts and hobbies. But it also reaches out to those who aren't inclined to spend their free time punching tin or decoupage with Mod Podge, by teaching the traditions in detail.

When checking in with Stewart, you always pick up news of her latest endeavors: a line of home-cleaning products in development that will be formulated to be safe for kids and pets; her growing number of Twitter followers (more than 310,000 as of early this week); and efforts to find a retailer to replace her Kmart contract for

### Glittered Eggs

Making glittered eggs is one of more than 200 projects in "Martha Stewart's Encyclopedia of Crafts." Here are instructions adapted from the book:

1. Gather chicken eggs and, if possible, include eggs of other sizes, such as those from quails or geese.

2. Make a pinhole on each end of an egg, blow out the contents and rinse the inside thoroughly. Let dry.

3. Set out bowls of glitter and pour a small amount of white craft glue into another bowl.

4. Use a small paintbrush to cover an egg with glue, then set the egg in a bowl of glitter, spooning glitter over the entire egg.

5. Remove the egg carefully from the bowl and dry it on a rack or waxed paper for one hour before displaying.



THE WASHINGTON POST  
Making glittered eggs is one of the projects in "Martha Stewart's Encyclopedia of Crafts."

linens and tableware that expires at the end of the year.

Stewart spoke by telephone from her ninth-floor office at her company headquarters in the Starrett-Lehigh Building on Manhattan's West Side.

**Q. How is the recession affecting domestic life and people making things at home?**

A. People are staying home

and enjoying it by crafting and beautifying their home with decorating and cooking. They can't afford to travel, but they can afford a (\$23) glitter kit.

**Q. What is the reward of crafting?**

A. The satisfaction you gain by doing some of these projects is very important. In this time, when people have lost money

in their IRA accounts and they may have lost their jobs and are having trouble making ends meet, they can lose themselves in beautiful projects. People get a huge kick out of doing it themselves. You look at something and say, "I can do this."

**Q. How has the recession affected you personally?**

A. I have always been kind

of frugal and cautious in terms of extravagance. So I have always turned the lights out when I leave a room. I was brought up like that. I am a serious environmentalist, as is my daughter. I am a serious gardener, and I grow my own food and have my own chickens and eggs. In terms of my daily life, I am just a little more cautious than I have been.

I actually may not be buying the numbers of personal things like clothing that I bought before. But of course I have to do daily TV, so I am not the perfect example. I'm not spending a lot eating out. I have had many more dinner parties personally than I had before. I am not buying as many trees to plant as I would like, but that can wait until next year.

**Q. Your daughter, Alexis, and pal Jennifer Koppelman Hutt, who do the Fine Living cable show "Whatever, Martha!," did an online poll asking if someone was going to visit you, Martha Stewart, which item would they take as a hostess gift: homemade brownies, a bottle of the finest wine, fresh flowers from their garden or a store-bought cake? The flowers got the most votes online, but what would be your choice?**

A. My choice would be a bottle of wine. If you bring flowers, it's like bringing coals to Newcastle. I have more flowers than most people. I certainly don't need a cake; I would be making

the cake. Brownies? No.

**Q. What do you bring to hosts?**

A. I bring a dozen fresh eggs. I take them honey from my beehive, homemade jams and jellies from my own fruit, a big basket of garden vegetables I grow. If I have been doing my own candlemaking, I may take them six candles that I have made. I recently made a lot of pillows and children's toys. I have the added benefits of doing crafts on a daily basis.

It should always be joyful to be able to make things. Too many of us are sitting around Twittering. How about knitting? Knit me a sweater or a scarf.

**Q. But wait a minute, you're big on Twitter now!**

A. I don't Twitter more than 10 minutes a day. I like Twitter because it's really experimental. I try to embrace any new technology so I can see why it's so appealing. I am very inquisitive and very curious.

**Q. How do you manage to do all this Twittering and blogging with everything else you do?**

A. I have a BlackBerry and iPhone and a regular cell-phone, and I carry all of these around with me. There are laptops everywhere I go, so I don't carry one.

**Q. What is the latest craft project you're working on?**

A. Beautiful little Easter baskets for my table at home.

# Mayor: Madonna promises \$500,000 for quake relief

**PACENTRO, Italy** (AP)—The Material Girl is giving something back to the land of her ancestors.

Madonna has promised \$500,000 to help victims of Italy's devastating earthquake, said Fernando Caparso, mayor of Pacentro, the mountainside village where two of the pop star's grandparents were born.

Caparso told The Associated Press on Wednesday that he had spoken to the pop star's manager and that he was deeply moved by Madonna's effort to assist the town as well as sur-

rounding areas.

"Madonna was the only one who could help us," he said. "Other than being a great singer, a great rock star and an intelligent woman, with this gesture she has become a great woman," he said.

Liz Rosenberg, the pop singer's spokeswoman, confirmed that Madonna had pledged a "substantial amount," in quake relief but didn't disclose the exact figure.

The picturesque village, 100 kilometers (60 miles) from hard-hit L'Aquila, felt Monday's earthquake but did not

suffer serious damage. However Caparso said residents were terrified and some have been sleeping in tents or in their cars for fear of being crushed in collapsing buildings.

Caparso said the bulk of Madonna's donation would be destined for areas harder hit.

In this tiny village, located below a snow covered mountain and overlooking a valley of olive groves, residents were mostly appreciative of the gesture—particularly coming at a time when the area was already experiencing economic problems.

"This was a tragedy for us, and I am very moved by what she did," said Davide Battaglini, 33, who works for Italy's financial police. "Our situation isn't

the best, factories have been closing, so a gesture from a star like her is very welcome."

But Rosa Napoli, 90, was less than approving. "She is a

woman that men like. She is not the Madonna that is worshipped in church," Napoli said as she left a small church where she attended an evening Mass.

## Chuck Wicks says 'DWTS' good wedding day prep

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Chuck Wicks and Julianne Hough aren't engaged, but the country singer admits that performing with his girlfriend

on "Dancing With The Stars" could be good preparation for a wedding day dance.

Wicks and Hough have been dating for nine months and are

paired together on the show. On Tuesday's episode, after the pair finished their dance, he got down on one knee, sparking a bit of engagement buzz—show host Samantha Harris even asked Wicks if he had anything to announce to the audience (he said no).

While the two might not be planning a wedding, when asked in a recent interview if he considered "Dancing With the Stars" good training for a nuptial dance, he said: "I don't need to go on a show to train with her, but I don't fight that question at all."

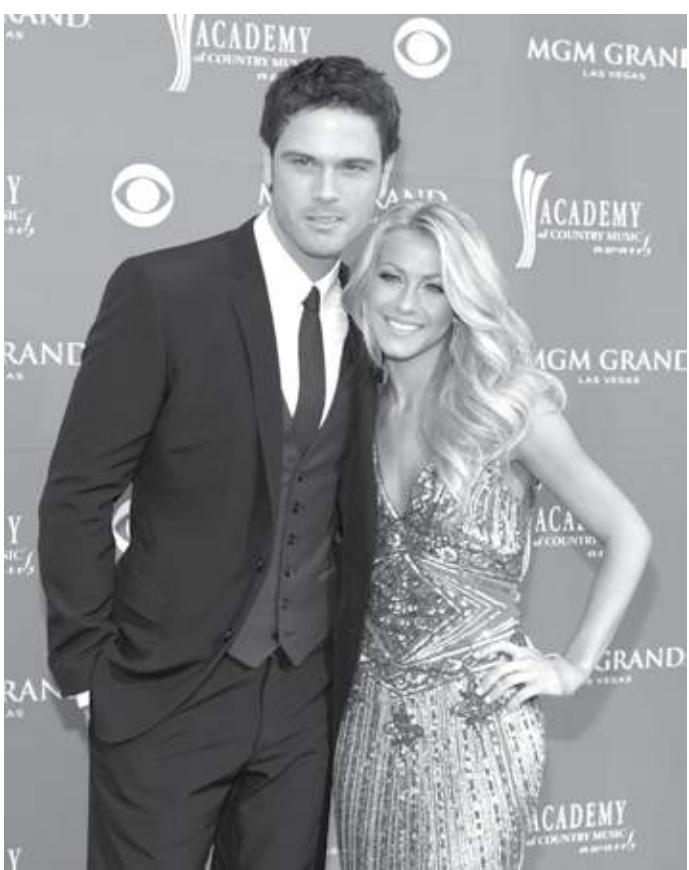
Wicks said before the ABC competition, the only wedding dance staple he knew was the electric slide.

"When you go to weddings, and you hear 'It's Electric,' I'm that guy. I go out there. I start it off," he said.

But not anymore.

Wicks has now performed a waltz, a salsa, a foxtrot, a lindy hop and a Viennese waltz on the show with Hough.

The singer calls himself "a total goof ball," but said both he and Hough are taking this competition very seriously. Hough has already won "Dancing With The Stars" twice with other celebrity partners.



Julianne Hough and boyfriend Chuck Wicks arrive at the 44th Annual Academy of Country Music Awards in Las Vegas on Sunday, April 5, 2009.

## Fox to make reality TV show out of company layoffs

**NEW YORK** (AP)—The Fox network is letting employees of some troubled small businesses decide which one of their colleagues will be laid off and turning the results into a reality show.

The series, "Someone's Gotta Go," is in production, but Fox wouldn't say on Wednesday when it would go on the air.

Each episode will feature a company with about 15 or 20 employees that needs to cut costs because of the economy. Instead of the boss deciding who is fired, the company will open its books to show everyone's salaries and let the employees make the call.

Tory Johnson, founder and chief executive of Women For Hire, which organizes job fairs and advises women seeking work, said she wonders whether "Someone's Gotta Go" is a good idea at a time so many people are out of work.

"For most people who are concerned about job security or are desperate to get hired, I don't think there's much to

laugh at in terms of watching someone else's pain and misery," said Johnson, a regular contributor to ABC's "Good Morning America."

But Mike Darnell, chief of alternative programming at Fox, said everyone who participates in the show knows fully what they are doing.

"I feel that it's part of the times that we are living in," Darnell said. "It's certainly no worse than watching the news every night and hearing all the statistics and watching what is happening. To be frank, like all these shows, if you don't want to watch, don't watch it."

Fox and Endemol have had "absolutely no trouble" finding companies willing to participate, he said.

In an inverse to "The Apprentice," the chosen one loses, instead of gets, a job.



Holmes

## Holmes returns to stage for Memorial Day concert

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Katie Holmes is headed back to the stage, this time for the annual Memorial Day weekend concert in Washington, D.C.

Holmes and actor Gary Sinise are among the stars confirmed for the event, set for Sunday, May 24. The wife of Tom Cruise along with actress Dianne Weist will team up to read one veteran's personal story. Those readings have been based on veterans' letters home in past concerts.

The concert will include appearances by Laurence Fishburne, Katharine McPhee, Trace Adkins, former Secretary of State Colin Powell and Broadway stars Brian Stokes Mitchell and Colm Wilkinson.

The show will be broadcast live on PBS.

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### Observe And Report

Friday 4:15 7:30 10:00  
 Sat and Sun 1:10 4:15 7:30 10:00  
 Monday 1:10 4:15 7:30  
 Tues thru Thurs 4:15 7:30

**Seth Rogen, Anna Faris**

Comedy • Rated R



### You Changed My Life

Friday 4:30 7:15 9:40  
 Sat and Sun 1:25 4:30 7:15 9:40  
 Monday 1:25 4:30 7:15  
 Tues thru Thurs 4:30 7:15

**John Lloyd Cruz, Sarah Geronimo**

Romance, Comedy • Rated NR



### I Love You, Man

Friday 4:00 7:05 9:55  
 Sat and Sun 1:00 4:00 7:05 9:55  
 Monday 1:00 4:00 7:05  
 Tues thru Thurs 4:00 7:05

**Paul Rudd, Jason Segel**

Comedy • Rated R



### Fast & Furious

Friday 4:25 7:20 9:50  
 Sat and Sun 1:30 4:25 7:20 9:50  
 Monday 1:30 4:25 7:20  
 Tues thru Thurs 4:25 7:20

**Vin Diesel, Paul Walker**

Action, Thriller • Rated PG 13



### The Haunting in Connecticut

Friday 4:20 7:25 9:45  
 Sat and Sun 1:20 4:20 7:25 9:45  
 Monday 1:20 4:20 7:25  
 Tues thru Thurs 4:20 7:25

**Virginia Madsen, Brooklyn Proulx**

Thriller, Supernatural • Rated PG 13

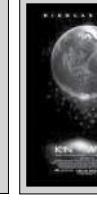


### Monsters vs. Aliens

Friday 4:05 7:00 9:35  
 Sat and Sun 1:05 4:05 7:00 9:35  
 Monday 1:05 4:05 7:00  
 Tues thru Thurs 4:05 7:00

**Reese Witherspoon, Hugh Laurie**

Action, Comedy, Animated • Rated PG



### Knowing

Friday 4:10 7:10 9:30  
 Sat and Sun 1:15 4:10 7:10 9:30  
 Monday 1:15 4:10 7:10  
 Tues thru Thurs 4:10 7:10

**Nicolas Cage, Rose Byrne**

Action, Thriller • Rated PG 13

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## Newly published author shies away from glare of limelight

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

**DEAR ABBY:** I have recently enjoyed the success of having my first book published. However, this achievement has begun to change my life in ways I hadn't expected.

I am a somewhat shy and reflective person by nature, preferring to live quietly rather than being in the spotlight. Having the freedom to spend time with my family and to enjoy the little things in life is more important to me than success. However, since my book's debut, I have felt myself pulled into a different sort of world.

I am meeting more "important" people than I can remember, and I am struggling to keep up. My inbox is inundated with questions, appointments and invitations. I am expected at speaking events and signings that don't feel entirely authentic. I know I would be an idiot not to embrace these opportunities, but I am becoming more and more uncomfortable and stressed. Maybe this just isn't me.

How can I be who I am without feeling like a disappointment to those who believe in me?

NOT WHAT I EXPECTED IN THE MIDWEST

**DEAR NOT:** For your own sake, it is important that you stop being so self-critical. There is more to being a successful author than just writing. You are among the lucky few who has been published, and you now have a responsibility to yourself and to your publisher to promote your work and do public relations.

This is a window of opportunity that won't last indefinitely, and it's important that you recognize that fact. In case no one has mentioned it, every business involves relationships. Meeting people of all kinds will prove valuable to you in the future—long after the hoopla of this book has died down.

Stop saying this isn't you because it IS you. And if your schedule is too stressful, cut it back a little.

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** I am wondering about the practicality of contacting my ex-wife about our unmarried, middle-aged daughter, "Della." Our daughter is an attractive (when she wants to be), well-educated woman who has her own business and has never given either of us cause for concern. However, some of the decisions Della has made in the last year or so have not reflected what I consider to be basic common sense.

Two of the decisions involved considerable amounts of money. Others involve day-to-day dealings with people in general. I have occasionally spoken up and raised questions about the decisions she has made, but Della seems to neither understand nor appreciate my point of view.

There is nothing illegal or unethical about what my daughter is doing, but her naivete at times makes her an easy mark for people who don't have her best interests at heart.

Should I express my concern to Della's mother? She doesn't see our daughter as often as I do. My ex and I have not talked for a long, long time.

IGNORE IT, OR NOT? SCOTTSDALE, ARIZ.

**DEAR "IG":** If you would like to talk to your ex-wife, by all means call her. But if she has less contact with your daughter than you do, she isn't going to be able to influence her, either.

Della is an adult, and sometimes experience is the most effective teacher. People often learn more from their mistakes than they do their successes. Perhaps after your daughter makes a few more poor choices she will be more receptive to listening to the voice of experience.

*Dear Abby* is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write *Dear Abby* at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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*Dear Abby*

## Zac Efron stars in Web video for FunnyOrDie.com

**NEW YORK** (AP)—In a new comedic Web video, Zac Efron hosts a star-studded pool party that dissolves quickly when his rude uncle arrives.

The "High School Musical" heartthrob did the video for FunnyOrDie.com, the comedy video Web site co-founded by Will Ferrell and Adam McKay. It features cameos of seemingly half of young Hollywood and a few veterans, too.

Making appearances are Nicole Richie, Vanessa Hudgens, Justin Long, Lance Bass, Queen Latifah and Carmen Electra.

Tom Lennon stars as "Uncle Hank," who embarrasses Efron with his crass behavior.

The video, posted Wednesday, was rapidly turning viral, with more than 193,000 people viewing it as of early afternoon.

In this photo taken on Thursday, April 2, 2009, Zac Efron arrives for the final night talent awards ceremony at the ShoWest held at the Paris hotel and casino in Las Vegas.

AP



## Downey suits up as 'Iron Man 2' starts filming



**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Robert Downey Jr. is officially back in the superhero business.

Production started Wednesday on "Iron Man 2," the sequel to his 2008 blockbuster about the Marvel Comics character. Downey reprises his role as a billionaire genius who fights bad guys in a high-tech metal

In this Jan. 11, 2009 file photo, actor Robert Downey Jr. arrives at the 66th Annual Golden Globe Awards in Beverly Hills, Calif.

AP

suit that's loaded with gadgets. "Iron Man 2" reunites Downey with co-star Gwyneth Paltrow and also features Don Cheadle, who replaces Terrence Howard as the superhero's military ally.

Mickey Rourke is signed on to play a villain, and the cast also includes Scarlett Johansson and Samuel L. Jackson, who had a cameo at the end of the first "Iron Man."

Jon Favreau is back directing again for the sequel that hits theaters May 7, 2010.



In this Thursday, Jan. 29, 2009 file photo, comedian Joan Rivers is pictured in New York.

## Comedy Central to roast Joan Rivers

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Comedy Central will roast Joan Rivers.

The 75-year-old, raspy-voiced comedian will be held up for comedic slaughter in a special taped July 26 in Los Angeles. It will air on the Viacom Inc.-owned network on Aug. 9.

Rivers has never been shy about her plastic surgeries—something that's sure to be a subject of jokes during the roast.

But Rivers has made herself the butt of her humor perhaps more than anything else.

On Wednesday, she joked that the last time she was roasted was for a "two-for-one special: Joan of Arc and me."

## 'House' actor Kal Penn joins White House team

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—The White House has hired actor Kal Penn as a liaison between President Barack Obama's administration and Asian constituents.

White House spokesman Shin Inouye said Tuesday that the actor who had a recurring role on Fox's TV show "House" and has starred in several movies would join the staff as an associate director in the Office of Public Liaison.

His role will be to connect Obama with the Asian-American and Pacific Islander communities, as well as arts groups. Penn starred as Kumar in the movie, "Harold and Kumar Escape from Guantanamo Bay." His "House" character committed suicide in Monday's episode.

Penn backed Obama during the campaign. The White House says a start date for Penn hasn't been set.

The White House did not reveal what Penn would be paid. Aides with similar titles earned between \$41,000 and \$91,000 last year.

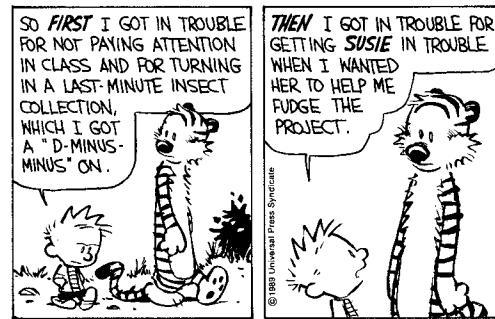
The hire was first reported by Entertainment Weekly.



In this image released by Fox, Hugh Laurie, right, and Kal Penn are shown in a scene from the Fox series, "House," airing Tuesdays at 9:00 p.m. EDT.

# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

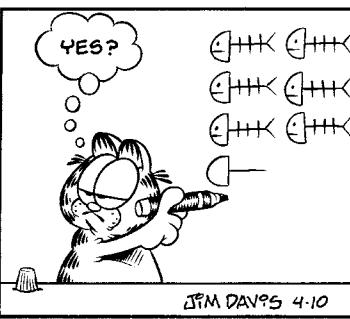


By Bill Waterson

## Garfield®



By Jim Davis

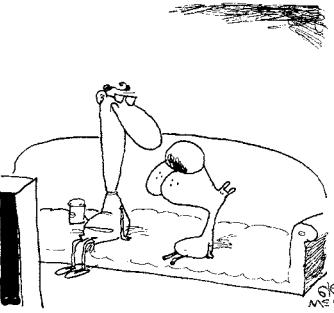


## Adam@home

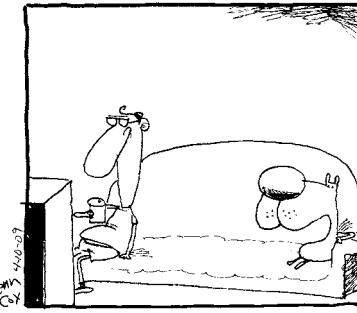


By Bryan Basset

## The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

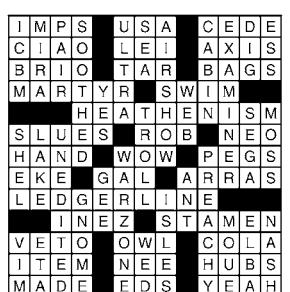
**ACROSS**

- 1 Use a ray gun
- 4 Impale
- 8 Puppy's attacks
- 12 Lemieux milieu
- 13 Harvard rival
- 14 Redact
- 15 Mrs. Odysseus
- 17 Gaucho's weapon
- 18 Bugle call
- 19 Big man on campus?
- 20 Ire
- 22 Old phone feature
- 24 Swine
- 25 1930 Harold Arlen song
- 29 Equi-
- 30 Automation
- 31 Historic time
- 32 It merged with Tangan-yika in 1964

**DOWN**

- 34 Winter forecast
- 35 Hide-away
- 36 Abacus bits
- 37 Yuletide refrain
- 40 Aim
- 41 Booty
- 42 Aquatic birds
- 46 Jealousy
- 47 Type of race
- 48 Menagerie
- 49 Lawyers' salaries
- 50 Bohemian
- 51 Recede
- 1 Energy
- 2 Expert

**Solution time: 25 mins.**



Yesterday's answer 4:10

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Haley Joel Osment, 21; Mandy Moore, 25; Ryan Merriman, 26; Steven Seagal, 58

**Happy Birthday:** Don't let your stubbornness be your downfall. You have to keep things balanced. Too much complaining will work against you but, if you speak from the heart and go about your business, you will find that your needs will be considered. Be forward-thinking this year, but proceed with caution. Your numbers are 4, 13, 16, 20, 24, 35, 44

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19): You'll be teetering back and forth about an emotional issue. You have to make a decision one way or another. Ask someone you've worked with in the past to step in and form a partnership for future developments. **★★★**

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): Someone from your past will challenge you emotionally. Don't give in. Rely on your past experience and your practicality and you will make the best choice for yourself. **★★★**

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): Lean on someone who has leaned on you in the past and you will get what you need and want to get ahead in the world. Your ideas can lead to the go-ahead from senior people, altering your life financially. Avoid procrastinators. **★★★**

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): Make some alterations to your appearance or get involved in a self-improvement package. The people you do business with will view your change in attitude and outlook as being positive and progressive. Stabilize your position at home. **★★★★**

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't make any quick transactions regarding your home, people you do business with or even your friends. Any decision you make will lead to future problems. Let the dust settle before you take action. Your strategy will be what counts. **★★★**

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): There is plen-



**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't give anyone the wrong impression or you will end up entangled in an emotional confrontation. Playing one person against another may initially work but, long-term, it will come back to haunt you. A financial deal will not be as simple as you first thought. **★★**

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You can talk your way in and out of anything, so start expressing your thoughts and desires and get things you want signed, sealed and delivered. This is an ideal time to make the changes you've been contemplating. **★★★★**

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't let your emotions cause you to miss out on something you want to do. Love is in the stars and, whether you are in a relationship or not, things will be exceptionally favorable for you in the romance department. **★★★**

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 22): Focus on the positive and ignore any negative issues you are facing for now. You can make some fabulous changes physically, mentally and with regard to your relationships. The experience and knowledge you pick up will lead to positive decisions. **★★★**

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): Make some alterations to your appearance or get involved in a self-improvement package. The people you do business with will view your change in attitude and outlook as being positive and progressive. Stabilize your position at home. **★★★★**

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't make any quick transactions regarding your home, people you do business with or even your friends. Any decision you make will lead to future problems. Let the dust settle before you take action. Your strategy will be what counts. **★★★**

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): There is plen-

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD  
IN ASTROLOGYCOPRIGHT 2007  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

ty you can do to manipulate any situation or deal so that you can win. Don't let a relationship matter slow you down or cause you to miss out on something you want to pursue. **★★★★**

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Be very careful how you approach people. You will be taken literally and may be made to look bad if you cannot defend your beliefs. Solidify your investments and budget so you can afford to make some improvements to your home and to yourself. **★★**

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't look back when it's what's ahead that counts. Place your thoughts and your energy into personal changes so you can move on. Your experience will help you regain something you lost. It never hurts to make up and move on. **★★★★**

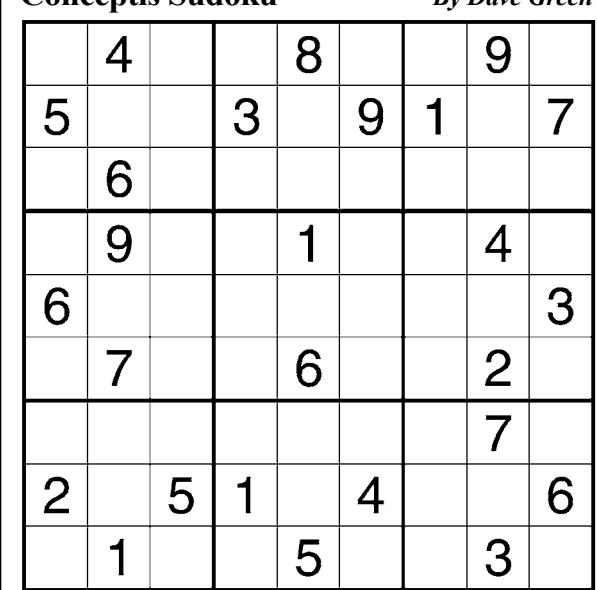
**Birthday Baby:** You are emotional and willful. You are a loyal friend but will hold a grudge if someone does wrong by you. Helping others is your way of life.

Eugenia's Web sites: [astroadvice.com](http://astroadvice.com) for fun, [eugenialast.com](http://eugenialast.com) for confidential consultations

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

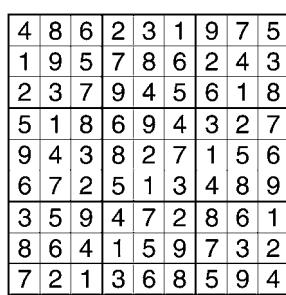
By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★★

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HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SLIPPERS

By DAVID OUELLET

Solution: 6 letters



© 2009 Universal Press Syndicate [www.wonderword.com](http://www.wonderword.com) 4/10  
Ballet, Bedroom, Blue, Bootie, Casual, Classic, Colors, Comfortable, Cover, Designs, Feet, Flannel, Flip-Flop, Footwear, Furry, Household, Indoor, Insert, Leather, Match, Moccasin, Mule, Pair, Pajamas, Patterns, Pink, Plain, Plastic, Printed, Sandal, Season, Shoes, Shop, Silk, Sleep, Socks, Soft, Soles, String, Style, Thick, Toes, Trends, Walk, Warm, Wool  
Yesterday's Answer: Passover

VOL. 28 is here! To order, send \$5.95 each (US funds only) payable to Universal Press Syndicate plus \$3 postage for the first book order. \$1 plus for each additional book. Send to WONDERWORD, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480. Order online at [upuzzles.com](http://upuzzles.com). (contains 43 puzzles, 9 of which are larger, 20 x 20 size)

## STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features Service, NYC.

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# CLASSIFIED ADS



## CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

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- 5-Liner \$35
- 3-Liner with picture \$45
- 5-Liner with picture \$55

## ADVERTISING DEADLINE

### Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

### Saturday Issue:

- *Saipan Tribune*: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

## CANCELLATION

### Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

## REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

## CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

## ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.



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[www.wish.org](http://www.wish.org)  
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M-F daily

**Saipan Tribune**

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Part Time Hawaiian Shaved Ice handler \$4.05/hour  
Food handler certification holder, Japanese speaking  
preferred. US citizen, IR visa only.  
Pacific Creations Inc. Tel: 235-6606  
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Place: Garapan • Time: 11:00am - 5:00pm

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or call Tel. Nos.  
**235-8888/5554/5555**

WHATZIT Solution:  
News bulletin

## FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated Bldg. 3BR & 2BT. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Backup generator. Free Wi-Fi. EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nighttime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Oceanview & Sunsetview Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BT Apts w/ private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Backup Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

## DRUNK DRIVING

Over the limit. Under arrest.

## new bullet knew

Find today's solution in this section

**Northern Mariana Islands  
RETIREMENT FUND**

## JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT JVA09-012 (REVISED)

OPENING DATE: March 16, 2009 CLOSING DATE: April 17, 2009

The NMI Retirement Fund is seeking professionals to work in a busy and challenging office. Salary and benefits are commensurate with the responsibilities assigned to the successful candidates and in compliance with CNMI laws. The following positions are available:

Director, Member Services      **Starting Salary Range**  
\$28,807.51-\$49,266.21  
(Pay Level 35)

Interested individuals may pick up an application and the complete Position Description from the NMI Retirement Fund, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or may request a packet by e-mail from the Administrator. Application packages may be hand-delivered or sent by e-mail or postal mail. Packages must be marked "JVA# 09-012 Confidential." Interested applicants must submit their application, resume, educational credentials and police clearance addressed to the following:

**Mark Aguon, Administrator  
NMI Retirement Fund  
P.O. Box 501247  
Saipan, MP 96950-1247  
E-mail: [administrator01@nmiretirement.com](mailto:administrator01@nmiretirement.com)**

Audrey Rogolofoi  
P.O. Box 501843  
Saipan, MP 96950

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT  
OF THE  
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN  
MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE MATTER OF ) FCD GU  
THE APPOINTMENT OF ) CIVIL ACTION  
AUDREY ROGOLOFOI AS ) NO. 09-0181  
GUARDIAN OF THE ) PETITION FOR  
ESTATE OF ) APPOINTMENT  
SHERIS OMELAU ) OF GUARDIAN  
Minor Child ) OF ESTATES  
by )  
AUDREY ROGOLOFOI )  
Petitioner )

COME NOW Audrey Rogolofoi herein referred to as the Petitioner, respectfully petition this Honorable Court for a Decree naming me as the Guardian of the Estates of the minor child, Sheris Omelau. In support of said petition, I state as follows:

1. This Honorable Court has jurisdiction in the above-captioned matter pursuant to 1 CMC § 3202 and 3205.
2. I am the Natural mother of the minor children and we are both permanent residents of Saipan.
3. The minor child Sheris Omelau was born on September 4, 1999 in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. (see Ex. "A"-Cert. of Live Birth)
4. The Paternal Grandmother of the minor children is Hasina Omelau who died on May 22, 2008. A copy of the death certificate is attached hereto as Exhibit "B" and is incorporated herein by reference.
5. Prior to the death of Hasina Omelau she executed an entitlement of his Life Insurance Benefits with Moylan's Insurance to the minor child, Sheris Omelau.
6. I, the Petitioner in this case desires to be appointed guardian of the estate of the minor children.

WHEREFORE, by the foregoing petition, we are respectfully praying for the decree from this Honorable Court as follows:

1. That I, Audrey Rogolofoi be appointed Guardian of the estate of our minor child, Sheri Omelau for the purpose of administering his benefits.
2. That this Honorable Court make such other orders as it deems in the best interest of said minor child.

Dated this 25<sup>th</sup> day of March 2009.

/s/ Audrey Rogolofoi



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Saipan - Part-Time

Must be available for work Monday through Friday  
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Performs phlebotomy, accessioning (data entry), specimen processing and other clerical duties as assigned. Phlebotomy experience or training preferred.

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**Cynthia Henson**

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**PA/HMGP/CIP PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**  
 Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950  
 Tel.: (670) 664-2371 • Fax: (670) 664-2408

## INVITATION TO BID

ITB09-GOV-079

### Renovation of Government Building No. 1353 – CIP Office

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, are soliciting sealed bids for the Renovation of Government Building No. 1353 CIP Office, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

The project package will be available on March 27, 2009 at the Governor's CIP Administrator's Office, Building No. 1356, Mednilla Avenue, Capitol Hill. A \$100.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid the current minimum wage as required by the CNMI and Federal laws.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference/Site Visit for this project on April 07, 2009, 9:00 a.m., local time, at the project site, 1353 Mednilla Avenue, Capitol Hill. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on April 07, 2009 to Mr. Carl Castro, Project Coordinator, Building No. 1356, Mednilla Avenue, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or fax to (670) 664-2408.

Sealed bids must be marked **ITB09-GOV-079**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 4:00 p.m. local time, April 13, 2009. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 4:00 p.m. local time April 13, 2009, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to [procurement@pticom.com](mailto:procurement@pticom.com). For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than April 13, 2009 and must be received no later than April 22, 2009. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, April 23, 2009. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on April 14, 2009.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid bond of fifteen percent (15 %) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". Surety companies must hold a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the CNMI Attorney General.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. The surety company providing the Performance and Payment bonds must be authorized to conduct business in the CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond. Performance time for completion of this project is ninety (90) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be greater of (i) two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00), or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by ninety (90) calendar days, the contract time and will be assessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ Benigno R. Fitial, Governor  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director  
Procurement and Supply, DOF



**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands**  
**State Board of Education**  
**Public School System**  
 P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



## Invitation For Bid

IFB 09-011

The Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the purchase, delivery, installation, and assembly of **Laptop Computer Systems and Accessories for Ladera International School of Saipan (LISS)**. Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, NM 96950.

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB 09-011" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, no later than **April 15, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.** Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "IFB 09-011" CONFIDENTIAL – Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and three (3)-copies). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Ms. Rita B. Dela Cruz, Acting, Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: [delacruz@pss.cnmi.mp](mailto:delacruz@pss.cnmi.mp).

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards, or to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All bids shall become the property of the CNMI Public School System.

**/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.**  
Commissioner of Education

**/S/ Rita B. Dela Cruz**  
Acting, Procurement & Supply Officer



**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands**  
**State Board of Education**  
**Public School System**  
 P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



## REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

RFP 09-013

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for the **Supply of Diesel, Unleaded Gasoline, Lubricating Oil, and Fluids for its School Bus and Vehicle Fleets on Tinian**. Detailed information on the scope of work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All proposals shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "RFP 09-013" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and shall be submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than **April 22, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.** Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "RFP 09-013, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and three (3) copies). Any proposal after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Ms. Rita B. Dela Cruz, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: [delacruz@pss.cnmi.mp](mailto:delacruz@pss.cnmi.mp).

Contractors are required to submit with their proposal, a copy of their valid CNMI Business License.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all proposals, in whole or in part, and others, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public Shool System.

All proposals shall become the property of the Public School System.

**/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.**  
Commissioner of Education

**/S/ Rita B. Dela Cruz**  
PSS Acting, P&S Officer

## PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

**T**he Commonwealth Association of Retired Persons (CARP) will hold a meeting for all retirees and all members of the retirement fund on April 13, 2009 at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe at 6:00 pm. Agenda for the meeting includes an update on CARP and a discussion with Retirement Fund officials on the state of the fund and what we can do to save our retirement system. All retirees and all members of the fund are urged to attend this critically important meeting.

# 38-1 at home: Cavaliers down Wizards



**CLEVELAND** (AP)—LeBron James scored 21 points before spending the fourth quarter playing air guitar on the bench as the Cleveland Cavaliers avenged an embarrassing loss to one of the league's worst teams by thumping the rival Washington Wizards 98-86 on Wednesday night.

The Cavs improved to 38-1 at home and became the first team in NBA history to have two 15-game winning streaks at home in the same season. If Cleveland can beat Boston (Sunday) and Philadelphia (next Wednesday) in its final two games at Quicken Loans Arena, the Cavs will match the 1985-86 Celtics, whose 40-1 home mark is the league's all-time best.

Mo Williams scored 14 points and Zydrunas Ilgauskas had 13 rebounds for the Cavs, who also inched closer to locking up the best record in East.

Nick Young scored 16 to lead the Wizards, who stunned Cleveland last week and handed the Cavs two of their 15 losses this season. Washington's Gilbert Arenas didn't play, choosing to rest his surgically repaired right knee.

## Celtics 106, Nets 104

At Boston, Rajon Rondo had 31 points, nine rebounds and five assists, and Boston overcame an early 10-point deficit and a last-minute scare.

The Celtics, coming off four days of rest, assured themselves of a lead over the Orlando Magic in the race for the No. 2 seed in the Eastern Conference, and kept the Cavs from locking up best record in the East.

Vince Carter had 33 points and 12 rebounds for the Nets, who were eliminated from the playoff race when Detroit beat New York earlier Wednesday night.

Boston played its fifth straight game and 18th of 22 without forward Kevin Garnett. He's recovering from a strained right knee.

## Mavericks 130, Jazz 101

At Dallas, The Mavericks clinched the final playoff spot in the Western Conference and took a huge step to possibly avoiding the No. 8 seed and a first-round series against the Lakers.

Dirk Nowitzki scored 31 points,

with a dozen in a row in one stretch, for the Mavericks.

Dallas and Utah are tied seventh place, a game behind sixth-place New Orleans, with four games left. The season series is even.

The Mavs' victory eliminated Phoenix from the playoff contention.

Deron Williams scored 18 points to lead all five Utah starters in double figures, and also had 12 assists. Andrei Kirilenko had 17 points.

The push for Dallas now is to avoid opening the playoffs in Los Angeles against Kobe Bryant and the Lakers (62-16). Dallas is 0-3 this season against the Lakers.

## Suns 105, Hornets 100

At New Orleans, Steve Nash had 24 points and 13 assists, and Phoenix survived a late rally by New Orleans, but was still eliminated from the postseason.

Shaquille O'Neal had 17 points and 11 rebounds, and Nash made six free throws in the final 42 seconds to give the Suns the cushion they needed to hold on.

Chris Paul had 29 points and 16 assists, and David West had 28 points and 12 rebounds for New Orleans, which trailed by 14 early in the fourth quarter but got as close as 100-97 on Peja Stojakovic's 3-pointer with 26 seconds to go.

## Nuggets 122, Thunder 112

At Denver, Carmelo Anthony scored 31 points, helping Denver to its eighth straight win.

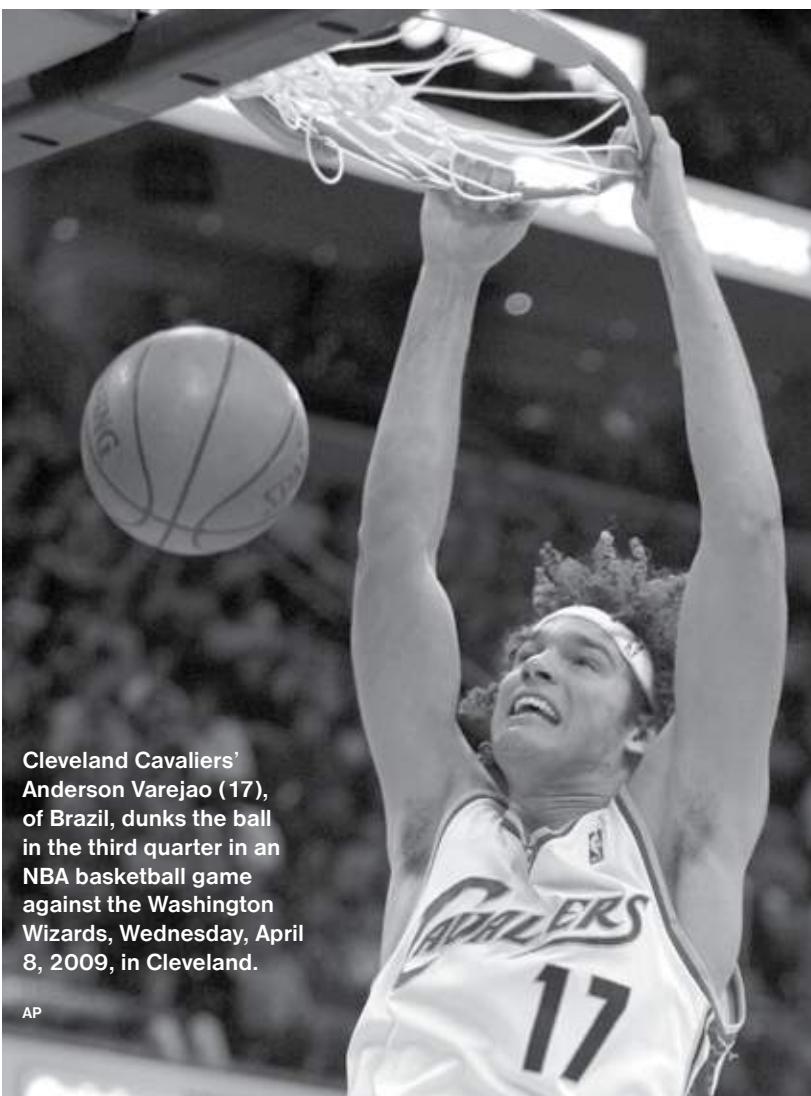
Linas Kleiza scored 12 of his 17 points in the fourth quarter for the Nuggets, who inched closer to the No. 2 seed in the Western Conference playoffs with their ninth straight win at the Pepsi Center.

Nene added 23 points and Chauncey Billups 18, including every one in an 11-2 spurt the Nuggets used to finally get control of the game in the third quarter, and Chris Andersen blocked seven shots.

Kevin Durant led the Thunder with 31 points and Jeff Green added 24.

## Trail Blazers 95, Spurs 83

At San Antonio, Brandon Roy scored 26 points and Portland took a big stride



Cleveland Cavaliers' Anderson Varejao (17), of Brazil, dunks the ball in the third quarter in an NBA basketball game against the Washington Wizards, Wednesday, April 8, 2009, in Cleveland.

AP

in the race for home-court advantage.

Clawing back from an early 19-point deficit, Portland won in San Antonio for the first time since 2002—and the timing was perfect.

Portland moved into a three-way tie with the Spurs and Houston for the third-best record (50-28) in the West with four games left. The Trail Blazers also took the season series 3-1, which could pay dividends if the seedings come down to tiebreakers.

Roger Mason scored 18 points for the Spurs.

## Magic 81, Grizzlies 78

At Orlando, Fla., Hedo Turkoglu scored 20 points, Dwight Howard added 14 and Orlando rallied to beat pesky Memphis.

J.J. Redick had all nine of his points in the fourth quarter to spark a 19-7 run, helping the Magic over-

come an eight-point deficit and stay in the hunt for the Eastern Conference's second seed. Orlando (58-20) began the day a game back of Boston for the East's No. 2 spot.

Rudy Gay had 18 points, and Mike Conley and O.J. Mayo had 17 points apiece for the Grizzlies, who were held to just 15 points in the final period and have lost two straight games after winning four in a row.

## Hawks 113, Bucks 105

At Milwaukee, Atlanta took another step toward earning home-court advantage for the first round of the playoffs.

Joe Johnson scored 30 points and made a pair of big shots down the stretch for the Hawks, who came into Wednesday's game in control of the No. 4 playoff seed in the Eastern Conference but are having trouble wrapping it up.

Keith Bogans scored 22 for the Bucks, who were eliminated from playoff contention over the weekend and have lost four straight.

## Pistons 113, Knicks 86

At New York, Richard Hamilton scored 22 points, Rasheed Wallace had 14 points and 12 rebounds, and Detroit rolled into a tie for seventh place in the Eastern Conference.

Antonio McDyess added 13 points and 16 rebounds for the Pistons, who pulled even with Chicago for the No. 7 seed and lowered their magic number to one to clinch their eighth consecutive playoff berth. Detroit will be back in the postseason with its next victory or one more loss by Charlotte.

Al Harrington scored 26 points and Wilson Chandler had 23 for New York, which lost for the 12th time in 14 games and will need to win its final three to avoid another 50-loss season.

## Pacers 130, Raptors 101

At Indianapolis, Danny Granger scored 29 points, and Indiana had its highest point total and largest margin of victory of the season.

Jarrett Jack added 23 points, Roy Hibbert had 17, and Troy Murphy finished with 14 points and 14 rebounds. Josh McRoberts had his first career double-double with career highs of 12 points and 11 rebounds.

The Pacers need to win out and get a lot of help to stay in the playoff race.

Chris Bosh had 21 points and nine rebounds in Toronto's third straight loss.

## Timberwolves 105, Warriors 97

At Oakland, Calif., Sebastian Telfair scored 21 points, including a pair of key 3-pointers down the stretch, and Kevin Love added 20 points and 12 rebounds for Minnesota.

Love, who didn't play in Sunday's game against Denver due to the flu, sat out the entire fourth quarter but still finished with his 18th double-doubles in the last 32 games. The fifth overall pick in the 2008 draft, has 28 double-doubles on the season, tops among all NBA rookies.

Jamal Crawford scored 31 points to pace Golden State.

# Pitt All-American Blair to declare for NBA draft



**PITTSBURGH** (AP)—DeJuan Blair guaranteed Pitt coach Jamie Dixon a year ago that he would play a full college career. One exceptional season changed all that.

Blair said Wednesday he will declare for the NBA draft and has begun hiring representatives, ending any possibility that the All-America center could return for his junior season.

Blair is projected as a mid- to late first-round pick, but his status could change—for better or worse—once he goes through the NBA's various pre-draft workouts. Blair plans to hire an agent within the next several weeks, and has retained Pittsburgh attorney James Cook to handle him in marketing and advertising matters.

Blair, the only Pitt player in the last 50 years to make first-team All-

America, could have returned to Pitt next season if he didn't hire an agent or any other representative, but retaining Cook means Blair no longer has that option.

"There ain't no turning back," said Blair, who initially planned to leave his options open but decided only in the last few days that he was turning pro regardless. "I don't think you should have gone into this situation unless you know you're a first-round pick or not. I'm guaranteed of (being) a first-round pick, and I'm going to work hard to get to where I want to be. I control my destination and I'll be all right."

Asked what guarantees him of being a first-rounder with the draft 2 1/2 months off and teams still evaluating talent, Blair said, "I'm an Internet freak and I go on all the draft boards, and nobody's got me going second round.

That's almost guaranteed to me."

Only the day before, Dixon warned about relying on such mock drafts, saying, "They're largely inaccurate, but fun to talk about."

Blair's decision also is a gamble partly because he has twice undergone reconstructive knee surgery, a red flag for NBA teams seeking durability in a league where teams play more than twice as many games per season as college teams do.

Also, his weight has been a problem in the past—the 6-foot-7 Blair weighed more than 300 pounds in high school, but now is about 260.

"I had to do what's best for me," said Blair, who doesn't want to risk another knee injury in college. "No one else made the decision but me. ... I've heard all the downfalls about me being too big or me being too small. That's just motivation. ... I'm

not going to tell them what I can do in the NBA, I'm going to show them what I can do."

Several dozen family members whispered words of encouragement as Blair spoke, with ex-teammates and former Pitt stars such as Brandin Knight and Sam Clancy gathered in a crowded interview room to hear his remarks.

"I think he's an NBA player," Dixon said of Blair, who grew up about a half-mile from Pitt's campus. "I told him that from the time we recruited him. I've always had a higher opinion of him than most scouting services and coaches and most media observers. I always thought of him as an NBA player."

Dixon and Blair met several times this week to discuss his status, and the coach passed on information he received from NBA general managers.

Blair is an in-between size for an

NBA inside player, but is an instinctive rebounder—he easily led major college players in offensive rebounding—and he was not overmatched physically even against centers who were seven or eight inches taller.

Among the college season's signature moments was when the muscular Blair flipped UConn's 7-foot-3 Hasheem Thabeet over his shoulder and to the court as the two contested a rebound. Blair joked that the NBA "is just bigger people, and every game is going to be like the UConn games."

"His size is not a hindrance in my mind," Dixon said. "It was just something he would overcome, as he had in high school and then college."

Blair averaged 15.7 points and 12.3 rebounds this season and was the Big East co-player of the year with Thabeet. Blair helped Pitt (31-5) to its first No. 1 national ranking, its first No. 1 seeding in the NCAA tournament and its first trip to the NCAA round of eight in 35 years.

# Down 7, Phillies rally for 12-11 win over Braves



PHILA-  
D E L -  
P H I A  
(A P) —

First, they got their bling. Then, they got their first win.

Four Phillies walked with the bases loaded during an eight-run seventh inning and Philadelphia rallied for a 12-11 victory over the Atlanta Braves on Wednesday.

Raul Ibanez hit a two-run homer, helping the defending World Series champions overcome a 10-3 deficit and avoid a three-game sweep on the day they received their shiny, new rings.

Brian McCann and Jordan Schafer hit two-run homers for the Braves, and Javier Vazquez left with a seven-run lead after pitching six effective innings in his first start with his new team. Blaine Boyer (0-1) issued two of the bases-loaded walks in the seventh and got the loss.

## Dodgers 5, Padres 2

At San Diego, Manny Ramirez hit a tiebreaking two-run double in the seventh inning and finished with three RBIs for Los Angeles.

Chad Billingsley worked six solid innings for the Dodgers and three relievers combined to finish the three-hitter. Jonathan Broxton struck out two during a scoreless ninth, earning his second save.

## Cubs 11, Astros 6

At Houston, Aramis Ramirez and Mike Fontenot drove in

four runs apiece to lead Chicago to the victory.

Kosuke Fukudome had four hits and scored a career-high four runs for the Cubs, who won an opening series for the first time since they took two of three from the New York Mets to begin the 2003 season.

Lance Berkman and Ivan Rodriguez connected for Houston, which finished with five homers. Jeff Keppinger, Kaz Matsui and Hunter Pence also went deep.

## Mets 9, Reds 7

At Cincinnati, Carlos Delgado homered and drove in four runs, getting New York's offense rolling on a clear, cool night that was much more favorable to hitters, and the Mets' rebuilt bullpen barely held on for the win.

The Mets won the season opener 2-1 on a raw, 37-degree afternoon that showcased their offseason bullpen additions of closers J.J. Putz and Francisco Rodriguez. With temperatures in the 50s on a clear Wednesday evening, the offense took over and Rodriguez pitched out of a bases-loaded threat in the ninth to avoid a bullpen collapse.

## Brewers 4, Giants 2

At San Francisco, Yovani Gallardo pitched neatly into the seventh inning and also hit a three-run homer off Randy Johnson to spoil the Big Unit's debut with the Giants.

Gallardo (1-0), the Brewers'

promising 23-year-old right-hander, gave up six hits and struck out six while muzzling a Giants team that scored 10 runs on opening day. He also popped a two-out, two-strike pitch over the short left-field corner fence in the fifth, providing himself with all the run support he needed.

## Pirates 7, Cardinals 4

At St. Louis, Zach Duke beat St. Louis for the first time in nearly three seasons and Pittsburgh's Freddy Sanchez went 4-for-5 for his third straight multihit game to open the year.

Jack Wilson matched his career best with four hits and two RBIs for the Pirates. Nate McLouth's two-run homer snapped his 0-for-8 start.

## Marlins 6, Nationals 4

At Miami, Dan Uggla hit a tie-breaking three-run double, Chris Volstad was almost flawless after a shaky first inning, and Florida completed the three-game sweep.

John Baker added a pair of run-scoring singles for the Marlins, 3-0 for only the second time. The other was in 1997, when Florida won the first of two World Series titles.

## Rockies 9, Diamondbacks 2

At Phoenix, Dexter Fowler, Yorvit Torrealba and Ian Stewart homered and Colorado won a series against Arizona for the first

time in two years.

Franklin Morales (1-0) allowed one run and four hits, struck out six and walked one in six innings for the Rockies. He then was optioned to Triple-A Colorado Springs to make room for right-hander Jason Hammel, acquired Sunday in a trade with Tampa Bay.

## Orioles 7, Yankees 5

At Baltimore, Koji Uehara allowed one run over five innings in his major league debut, Nick Markakis went 3-for-3 with a homer and three RBIs, and the Baltimore Orioles beat Chien-Ming Wang and the New York Yankees.

Baltimore improved to 2-0 with its second straight win over the Yankees.

Uehara, the first Japanese-born pitcher in Orioles history, gave up five hits and a walk before leaving with a 7-1 lead.

Signed to a two-year, \$10 million contract in January, Uehara (1-0) dominated the Yankees in much the same fashion he ruled the Japanese League for 10 seasons with the Yomiuri Giants.

## Athletics 6, Angels 4

At Anaheim, Calif., pinch-hitter Nomar Garciaparra, Mark Ellis and Matt Holliday hit RBI singles with two outs in the ninth inning off new Angels closer Brian Fuentes, rallying the Oakland Athletics over Los Angeles.

The A's trailed 4-0 before scor-

ing three runs in the eighth inning and three more in the ninth.

Rookie reliever Andrew Bailey (1-0) earned his first major league victory with a hitless eighth inning and Brad Ziegler finished for his second save.

## Rays 7, Red Sox 2

At Boston, Scott Kazmir pitched six solid innings and the bullpen preserved the lead, giving the AL champion Tampa Bay Rays their first win of the season.

Carlos Pena hit a two-run homer after striking out in his first five at-bats this season, Evan Longoria went deep and Grant Balfour got out of a bases-loaded jam in the eighth inning by striking out Jed Lowrie, then pitched the ninth for a save.

Tigers 5, Blue Jays 1

At Toronto, Miguel Cabrera homered twice, Brandon Inge connected for the third consecutive game and the Detroit Tigers beat the Toronto Blue Jays for their first victory of the season.

Inge became the first Tigers player in more than 50 years to homer in the first three games of the year.

Zach Miner (1-0) allowed one run and six hits in 5 2-3 inn-

ings for Detroit, which lost its first seven games last year and finished last in the AL Central.

## Royals 2, White Sox 0

At Chicago, Zack Greinke pitched three-hit ball into the

seventh inning and the Kansas City bullpen was perfect against the Chicago White Sox.

Greinke (1-0) struck out seven and walked three, winning for the first time in seven career decisions at U.S. Cellular Field.

Relievers Juan Cruz and Joaquin Soria retired all nine batters to preserve the Royals' first victory of the season. Soria pitched the ninth for his first save after converting 42 of 45 opportunities last year.

## Twins 6, Mariners 5

At Minneapolis, Justin Morneau homered and drove in three runs, Jason Kubel hit the go-ahead RBI double in the fifth inning and the Minnesota Twins beat Seattle.

Denard Span hit a two-run homer to help Kevin Slowey (1-0) survive a couple of rough stretches and complete six innings for the victory. Craig Breslow and Jesse Crain held the lead for Joe Nathan, who notched his first save.

## Rangers 8, Indians 5

At Arlington, Texas, Nelson Cruz hit two solo homers and drove in three runs, and 20-year-old rookie Elvis Andrus added his first homer to lead the Texas Rangers past the Cleveland Indians.

Vicente Padilla (1-0) pitched into the sixth inning to help the Rangers open 2-0 for the first time since 2000.

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# Patriots completes sweep of Red Sox

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.  
n\_rodriguez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER



The Patriots swept the Red Sox in three regular season meetings after completing a come-from-behind 5-3 victory last Sunday in the Junior Division of the 2009 Saipan Little League at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Patriots rallied from a 2-4 deficit with a four-hit, three-run performance in the top of the seventh inning on the way to the victory.

Carlos Rabauliman singled and scored on a triple by Jared Sablan, who also scored on a single by Jeremy Rabauliman.

Jeremy Rabauliman then reached home on a single by Brian Camacho for the final run

## NATIONAL

From Page 36

pass from Tumaquip, referees stopped the play, awarding the win to the Nationals.

When asked if there will be sanctions against IT&E,

## VANLANDINGHAM

From Page 36

mountain bikers have made the trek to Saipan for the annual Xterra Saipan Championship.

## HEO

From Page 36

Min Park in three hard fought sets in the opening round of the ITF tournament last Tuesday. The CNMI bet drew first blood, winning the opening set, 7-6 (5) before the Korean netter regained his bearings and swept the last two sets, 6-3, 6-4, to steal the win.

The tournament in Jeju is a Grade 4 event in the ITF calendar and offers the least ranking points for junior players like Heo.

## RUN

From Page 36

tation. Or a good way to cool off on a hot afternoon.

Bicycles and childhood go together like peanut butter and jelly. Biking because I couldn't afford a car in college was a fun, healthy, cheap lifesaver. But after coming to Micronesia (before some of you were born) I have yet to ride a bike. Call it the Fear Factor. Plus, I can afford an air-conditioned car.

This month I will drive my sun-roofed, 5-speed Rav4 with custom Okole waterproof seat covers to two triathlons: the Xterra Saipan Champion-

## EJ Tenorio leads batters in Big League

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.  
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REPORTER

E.J. Tenorio of the San Roque D-9ers is currently leading all batters in the Big League Division of the 2009 Saipan Little League.

Tenorio has so far cornered the most hits, 8-for-13 at bat to emerge on top among 17 batters who were included in the list based on 10 or more at bats.

He averaged .615 in the D-9ers first four games of the season.

The team has a 2-2 win-loss slate in a tie at third with the Hustlers.

Tenorio also earned the most RBI with five.

Nick Cruz Jr. of the Aztecs is running second with .500 on seven hits out of 14 at bats, while Ben Cabrera of the Falcons is third with .462 on 6-for-13 at bat.

of the game.

Christian Mizer relieved Jeremy Rabauliman in the bottom of the sixth and allowed only

league commissioner Gabriel White said none and the team just simply lost the game when it walked out.

Deocares told *Saipan Tribune* he intended to file a complaint against Vistal.

With the win, the Nationals advanced to the next round

Among them are Olympic triathletes, Xterra World Champs, and mountain bike phenoms from more than a dozen countries.

Contending on the men's side is defending champ Andrew Noble of Australia, 2008

The 17-year-old CNMI netter so far has gained five ranking points in singles and 3.75 in doubles to rank at No. 1255 in the world.

Heo fell to a much higher ranked foe in the 16-year-old Park, who is at No. 910 and was ranked as high as No. 882 in February this year.

With the loss, Heo remained winless in four singles games this year and dropped his overall record to 1-12. He holds a 3-3 slate in doubles this year and is hoping to improve that mark next week.

Park recorded his second win

ship and Tagaman Triathlon.

Top triathletes, and no, I am not competing, will swim in one of the nicest ocean courses anywhere, a shallow tranquil green-blue lagoon. Well, yeah, it was rough one year but anyone can have a bad year, right?

While our water is world-class (in the lagoon, not in the faucet), the roads are, huh, just roads I guess, actually not all that good to be honest. I would imagine other venues are better for biking. As for running, road is road. Pavement is pavement. It's all hard. Harder than Chinese algebra.

What separates the Xterra started here in 2002. The Tagaman has been staged every year since 1988 except two years when it

David Camacho of the D-9ers and Vicente Camacho of the Falcons are in fourth and fifth with .429 (6-of-14) and .412 (7-of-17), respectively. David Camacho is the leader in triple with two.

Ryan Lisua of Ol'Aces is running sixth with .400 (4-of-10).

Seventh-ranked Ike Aldan of the Falcons went at bat for the most number of times with 21 but could only clinch seven hits for an average of .333.

However, Aldan has the most doubles with three.

Inside the Top 10 are Tim Cruz, Aztecs (.333, 5-for-15), Zack Tudela, Fielders (.308, 4-for-13), and Juan Iguel, Ol'Aces (.286, 4-of-14).

Cruz had the most runs with eight.

Others in the list are Iaonis Rasa, Field-

ers (.286), Ben Flores, Fielders (.273), Jesse Sablan, D-9ers (.273), Jimmy Brel, Ol'Aces (.250), Wally Emul, Aztecs (.231), Navan Falig, Falcons (.231), and Juan Tenorio (.231).

Giovanni Ayuyu of the Hustlers became the only player so far to score a homerun.

Rasa and Anthony Aldan of the Hustlers are leading in ERA with 0.00. Jared Camacho of the D-9ers is third with 0.38.

Completing the Top 12 are Brel (1.17), Vicente Camacho (1.26), Iguel (1.34), Drew Magofna, Falcons (2.00), Nick Cruz, Aztecs (.225), Tony Rogolofoi, Hustlers (2.63), Ayuyu (3.00), and Elton Santos, Fielders (3.00).

Vicente Camacho is currently on top of the list in strikeouts with 35, Elton Santos (27), Jared Camacho (23), Nick Muna, Aztecs (14), Ayuyu (11), David Camacho (10), and Iguel (10).

celled this coming weekend to give the players a chance to join the nation in the observance of the Lenten season.

## Ol'Aces 11, Fielders 4

Ol'Aces also repeated their mastery over the Fielders, 11-4, in the other Junior Division game last April 5.

Frankie Camacho, the current No. 2 in batting average, went 3-for-4 with three runs in the second, fourth, and sixth innings to help Ol'Aces score back-to-back wins as the team kept its tight grip of second place with an 8-2 record.

Ol'Aces spoiled a two-run homerun by Fielders pitcher Patrick Tenorio in the top of the first inning.

After that Camacho retired the next seven batters. In all, he issued three strikeouts, gave up four hits, three runs, and three walks in five innings.

It was the third win for Ol'Aces this season over the Fielders. They also prevailed in their first meeting last Feb. 16 (29-13) and in their second encounter last March 8 (13-1).

## TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

### NBA STANDINGS

#### EASTERN CONFERENCE

##### Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Boston	59	19	.756	-
x-Philadelphia	40	37	.519	18 1/2
New Jersey	32	46	.410	27
Toronto	30	48	.385	29
New York	30	49	.380	29 1/2

##### Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Cleveland	63	15	.808	-
Chicago	38	40	.487	25
Detroit	38	40	.487	25
Indiana	34	44	.436	29
Milwaukee	32	47	.405	31 1/2

##### Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Orlando	58	20	.744	-
x-Atlanta	45	34	.570	13 1/2
x-Miami	41	37	.526	17
Charlotte	35	43	.449	23
Washington	18	61	.228	40 1/2

##### Western Conference

##### Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Houston	50	28	.641	-
x-San Antonio	50	28	.641	-
x-New Orleans	48	30	.615	2
Dallas	46	31	.597	3 1/2
Memphis	22	56	.282	28

##### Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Denver	52	26	.667	-
x-Portland	50	28	.641	2
x-Utah	47	30	.610	4 1/2
Minnesota	23	55	.295	29
Oklahoma City	21	56	.273	30 1/2

##### Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
z-LA Lakers	62	16	.795	-
Phoenix	43	35	.551	19
Golden State	28	49	.364	33 1/2
LA Clippers	18	60	.231	44
Sacramento	16	61	.208	45 1/2

##### Yesterday's Games

Orlando	81	Memphis	78
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# HANMI Charity Golf Classic set for May 23

One of the most highly anticipated annual golf tournaments in the Northern Mariana Islands is set to tee off on May 23 as the 8th Annual HANMI Charity Golf Classic Tournament prepares to offer golfers the chance to win enticing prizes while supporting a good cause.

This year's tournament will be held at the Larry Nelson-designed Coral Ocean Point Resort and will be open to the first 140 paid registrants. Approximately \$6,000 in cash prizes and numerous in-kind prizes await the winners. Proceeds of the tournament will be contributed to community charities.

"The HANMI Charity Golf Classic Tournament is one of our most highly anticipated events

during the year," said HANMI vice chairman Nick Nishikawa. "In addition to being an exciting tournament for local golfers, our members enjoy working with our tournament sponsors to help raise money for local charities. We look forward to another successful tournament this year."

Registration forms will be available later this month at Coral Ocean Point, Hyatt Regency Saipan, and Marianas Resort and Spa. Early bird tournament fee is \$90 for payments by May 21. The fee includes green fee, prizes, and the awards banquet. The fee increases to \$110 on May 22. For an additional \$20, players may

also compete for nearest to the pin, most accurate drive, and longest drive.

The tournament features six categories: Championship Flight, A Flight, B Flight, C Flight, Seniors (55-and-over), and Ladies. Players in the Championship Flight must have 0-5 handicaps, while those in A Flight are 6-10 handicappers. The B Flight is for players with 11-17 handicap, while C Flight are for players with handicap above 17.

Winners (champion, first runner-up, and second runner-up) for the female golfers will be determined using the Double Peoria handicap system. First

place winners of all flights will receive \$500 and a trophy; second place finishers will receive \$300 and a trophy; and third place winners will receive \$200 and a trophy. In addition to prizes in the flight category, hole-in-one prizes will also be awarded.

Other competitions include most accurate drive, longest drive, and nearest to the pin. Players interested in registering for these competitions must pay an additional \$25.

The tournament will start at 7am. The awards ceremony will be held at Hyatt Regency Saipan poolside at 6:30pm.

Previously, HANMI has supported Crimestoppers and other community causes with the proceeds of the tournament. (PR)



HOTEL ASSOCIATION NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

## Frank Rosario takes SGA April Ace

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER



Frank Rosario bested 21 other SGA members to gain the Saipan Golfers Association April Ace title last Sunday at Coral Ocean Point.

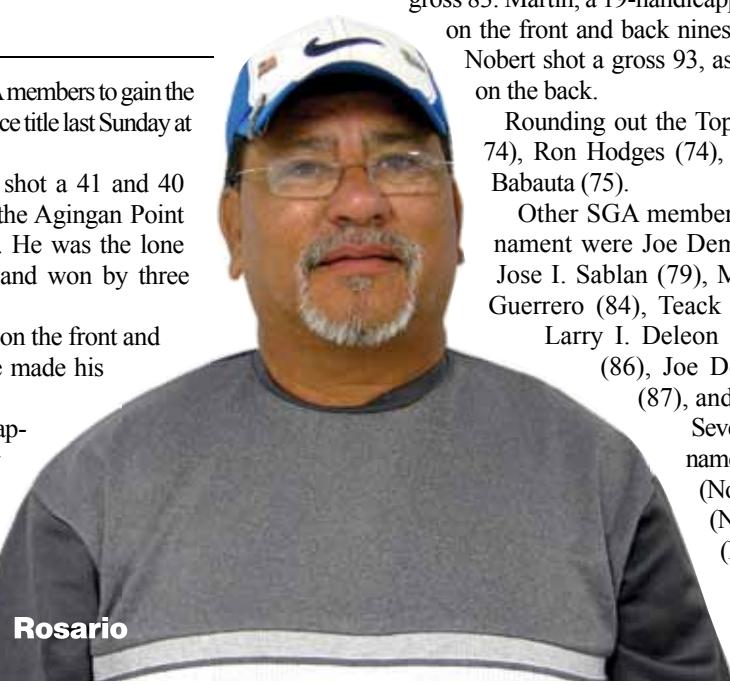
The 13-handicapper Rosario shot a 41 and 40 on the front and back nines of the Agingan Point course, respectively, for a gross 81 and net 68. He was the lone SGA member to have a net score in the 60s and won by three strokes against Das Krishnan.

Das Krishnan, who has a 17 handicap, tallied a 43 on the front and a 45 on the back for a gross 88 and net 71. He made his lone birdie of the day on the par-4 No. 13 hole.

Finishing third was March Ace and 15-handicapper Ray Dela Cruz, who drilled a net 72 after firing a 42 on the front and a 45 on the back.

There was a tie for fourth to sixth place with Jess Castro, Martin Sablan, and Nobert Sablan nailing identical net scores of 73.

The 10-handicapper Castro started strong with a 39 on the front, but slowed down in the last nine holes with his 44 for a



Rosario

gross 83. Martin, a 19-handicapper, had a gross 92 after a 44 and 48 on the front and back nines, respectively. The 20-handicapper Nobert shot a gross 93, as he had a 48 on the front and a 45 on the back.

Rounding out the Top 10 were Edward Manibusan (net 74), Ron Hodges (74), Steve Balakrishna (74), and John Babauta (75).

Other SGA members who joined the April Ace tournament were Joe Demapan (78), Edward Sablan (978), Jose I. Sablan (79), Mariano Fajardo (83), Art Deleon Guerrero (84), Teack Jung (85), Frances Sablan (85), Larry I. Deleon Guerrero (85), Ray San Nicolas (86), Joe Deleon Guerrero (87), Ben Aldan (87), and Joe Aldan (88).

Seven players made one birdie each, namely Babauta (hole No. 1), Balakrishna (No. 5), Dela Cruz (No. 13), Joe DLG (No. 8), Hodges (No. 4), Manibusan (No. 18), and Nobert Sablan (No. 6).

Winning the longest drive contests in holes No. 6 and 8, respectively, were Demapan and Babauta.

## 1st Saipan International Open Water Flipper Tournament set

One of the premiere snorkeling spots in the Pacific opens up to a new audience, as Managaha Island in the Northern Mariana Islands becomes home to a new international flipper race in June 2009.

The Inaugural Saipan International Open Water Flipper Tournament will be held on June 20, 2009, around Managaha Island, a tiny island in the lagoon of Saipan, the capital island of the Northern Marianas.

Managaha Island was selected No. 1 snorkeling spot at last year's Marine Diving Fair in Japan. Over 100 participants are already expected for the 1.5-kilometer race, which allows swimmers to use fins, snorkels, and wet suits or life jackets.

The event is sponsored by Marianas Visitors Authority and Community Sports Center Foundation of Japan.

"We were able to entice Community Sports Center Foundation to look at Managaha a few months ago as a potential event site, and they liked the location," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "This will be a cooperative effort, with MVA producing the tournament and the foundation marketing it to their members in Japan."

The race will start at 6:30am. An island-style breakfast and awards ceremony will be held following the race. The following awards will be given: Overall Male/Female (first to third), Junior Male/Female (10-and-under, 11-12 years, 13-15 years, and 16-18 years), and Male/Female by age (19-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60 and over).

DFS Galleria will be providing a small gift and the following hotels are offering 15 percent discount at their restaurants to participants who show a tournament identification card: Mariana Resort & Spa, Aqua Resort Club Saipan, Palms Resort Saipan, Hafa Adai Beach Hotel, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Saipan Grand Hotel, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Saipan World Resort, and Coral Ocean Point Resort.

The cost is \$45 for CNMI resi-

dents. The deadline to register with the MVA is June 19, during orientation at American Memorial Park on Saipan. Participants must be in good health with snorkeling or diving experience. Mask, snorkel, fins, and wet suit or life jacket are required.

"Anyone who has not yet experienced the underwater world of Managaha Island is in for a real treat," said Tenorio. "This is just one small example of how the CNMI's marine conservation efforts are paying off."

Co-sponsors of the race are Japan

Marine Recreation Association, Japan Recreational Diving Industry Association, Japan Scuba Association, Japan Wetsuits Manufacturers Association, University Life Sport Education Society, Northern Mariana Diving Operators Association (NMDOA), Northwest Airlines, Continental Airlines, Pacific Subsea, and CNMI Dept. of Public Safety Boating Safety Unit.

For more information or to register, contact MVA at info@mymarianas.com. (PR)



Managaha Island in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands will be home of the Inaugural Saipan International Open Water Flipper Tournament on June 20, 2009.

## M-Destroyers pad lead in SEDA Masters

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.  
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REPORTER

D'Pirates M-Destroyers widened their lead from the rest of the field in the Masters Division of the ongoing Saipan Electronic Darts Association.

After Monday's results, M-Destroyers compiled 70 wins against 32 loses. They are 15 wins ahead of their closest rival Oleia Snipers.

The Snipers have 55-47 followed by sister teams Black Stallion's 53-49 and D'Companeros' 47-55.

Completing the list are Snicker N Tuna All Star Cast (42-60) and VFW Angry Dragons (39-63).

In the A Division, Utopia 4-Corners and D'Pirates A Destroyers are tied with 63-39 while VFW Major Leaks is third with 52-50.

The other teams in the division are Monte Carlo Da Boyz (49-53), Snicker N Tuna Lights Out 2 (49-53), Snicker N Tuna Zaiz Perez (49-53) and Snicker N Tuna Eat'Em Up (32-70).

Oleai Black Stallion Jr. currently tops the Tuesday B with a 71-34 record, ahead of second running Jonny's Fujin (65-40) and third placer D'Pirates B-Destroyers (61-44).

Also in the running are Monte Carlo 80 Proofers (58-47), Billy Bones Naughty Boys (57-48), Billy Bones Bad Boys 1 (55-50), USSP Gagan Palau (46-59), Jonny's Samurai (39-66), The Flair Get Sum (37-68), and BwiiBwi's Hustlers (36-69).

In the Thursday B Fanihi Division, the Oleai Challengers are also way ahead from their closest pursuers.

The Challengers have a 72-33 mark, while No. 2 BwiiBwi's B Barracuda has 58-47 and No. 3 Monte Carlo 99 Proofers a 54-51 card.

The three other teams in the division are Billy Bones Bad Boyz 2 (50-55), Utopia Hot Shots (42-63), and VFW Dutty Guns (39-66).

Another Oleai team, the Shooters, has a slight edge with its 60-45 card, while The Flair Sakude Umbre is at second with a 59-46 record.

Completing the cast are USSP No Fear (55-50), The Flair Like It Or Not (53-52), Snicker N Tuna Lights Out 1 (53-52), Billy Bones Naughty Boyz 2 (51-54), Gaia Gaiana (46-59), and Naked Fish Hafa Mas 11 (43-62).

In the C Division, BwiiBwi's C Barracuda is leading the field with its 67-38 slate, while sister team Meta MWA has 59-46 in second and Gaia Let Lose is third with 58-47.

The others are Naked Fish Hafa Mas (57-48), VFW Darty Deeds (57-48), D'Pirates Just Let It Go (55-50), Snicker N tuna Young Guns (52-53), Jonny's Asian Dart Heads (47-58), Billy Bones Bad To The Bone (39-67), and Snicker N Tuna Old Aces (35-70).

In the ladies division, Naked Fish Naked Shooters hauled 74 wins and 31 losses for the lead. Jonny's.com is second with 67-38 and Oelai B-52's has 66-39 in third.

In fourth are BwiiBwi's Mermaids (47-58), followed by VFW Mama Snipers (39-66) and VFW Wat A Kind (22-83).

One of the most highly anticipated annual golf tournaments in the Northern Mariana Islands is set to tee off on May 23 as the 8th Annual HANMI Charity Golf Classic Tournament prepares to offer golfers the chance to win enticing prizes while supporting a good cause.

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## Nationals win as IT&E walks out

 By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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 REPORTER

The CNMI Nationals were handed their first playoff win in the 2009 BANMI/Budweiser Basketball League even before the final buzzer sounded, as IT&E walked out of the game with 38 seconds remaining in the fourth period of their Wednesday match at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Most of IT&E players left the court after getting frustrated by two crucial calls. First was a blocking foul on John Artates, who was pressuring the Nationals' Jomary Tumaquip at the top of the key.

IT&E coach Marvin Deocares and his players were up in arms after referee Dado Vistal made the call. Deocares continued to complain from the sidelines, while Artates went to midcourt, egging on IT&E supporters, who obviously did not like the call. Artates later went to their frontcourt, but according to

Vistal, the IT&E player continued to say "unsportsmanlike" words, prompting the latter to charge the former with a technical foul.

The last call infuriated Deocares more, as IT&E was catching up with the Nationals, who were ahead by only three, 88-85, with 38 seconds left on the clock.

IT&E players then left the game one after another. Deocares remained on the court, still questioning the calls, while his player, Gyles Ruluked, tried to pacify him. Ruluked and Deocares then went out of the gym to encourage their players to finish the game, but to no avail.

While IT&E players and Deocares were out, Tumaquip stepped to the foul line for a pair of charities and split his free throws. Next up was Jericho Cruz for the technical free throws and he also split his charities, upping the Nationals' lead to five, 90-85.

IT&E had a time out left and Deocares used that while still convincing his players to return to the game, but again he was unsuccessful.

The game resumed with the Nationals making an inbound and the moment Cruz received the

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The Nationals' Jomary Tumaquip, right, pulls up for a jumper against IT&E's Wowie Abuel during their playoff game in the Budweiser caging Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

## Vanlandingham to join XTERRA Saipan

 BY NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.  
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 REPORTER


Shonny Vanlandingham, tagged as the most successful and decorated rider in the National Off-Road Bicycle Association series, is set to compete against the world's top triathletes in the XTERRA Saipan Championship on April 18.

She will be crowding the likes of Julie Dibens of Great Britain, Renata Bucher of Switzerland, along with other international and local participants.

Vanlandingham joined the World XTERRA Championships for the fifth time last year finishing third behind Dibens and Bucher.

Dibens, who arrived last April 5 to acclimate herself with the weather, said

the world's Top 3 will be having a tough race this time on Saipan because of the intricate swim, bike, and run courses the local XTERRA has to offer.

"She is definitely coming to Saipan," confirmed Dibens.

She said Vanlandingham will be one of the bikers to be reckoned with.

Vanlandingham has 15 NORBA National race wins and three NORBA Series Championship titles to her credit. She won the U.S. National Short Track in 2005, the U.S. National Series XC in 2004, 2005, and 2006 as well as the Mountain Bike Marathon National Championship in 2007.

The 40-year-old Texan lives in Captain Cook, Hawaii where she owns a coffee plantation.

Over the past seven years more than 40 of the world's finest triathletes and

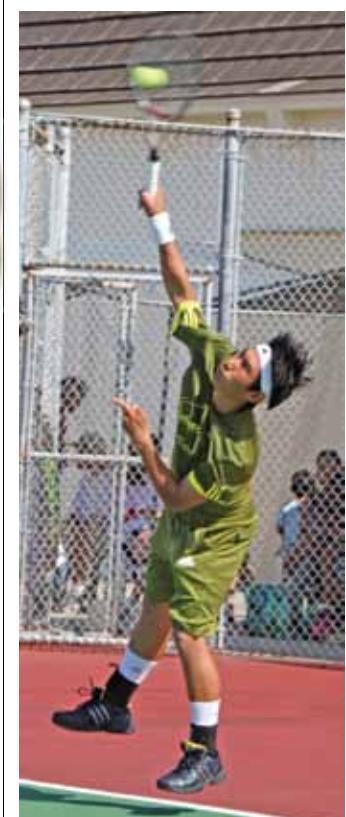
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Vanlandingham



## Heo loses in ITF tournament



ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
 Ji Hoon Heo, seen here serving against Kirk Schuler in the men's open singles finals match in the PIC netfest two weeks ago, bowed in his opening match against a Korean player in the Jeju International Junior Championships 2009 in Jeju, South Korea.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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 REPORTER

 CNMI junior tennis player Ji Hoon Heo faltered in his bid to earn ITF ranking points after being booted out of the Jeju International Junior Championships 2009 in Jeju, South Korea. Heo bowed to Korea's Kyu-

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## OFF THE BENCH

By BOB COLDEEN  
 Special to the Saipan Tribune



## Run, baby, run

 triathlon is crazy. That's something I may have said growing up if I knew what it was back then which I don't believe I did since the first one came in 1974 which is after I stopped growing up.

We played ball.

Marathon I had heard about, but not pentathlon, heptathlon, decathlon, or any other thlon for that

matter except in the Olympics.

Swim-bike-run. Who came up with that idea? It's got to be on Wikipedia but honestly I could care less so I won't bother looking it up.

These days I only run to the bathroom. Back in the day, I only ran if I had the ball or the other guy had the ball.

Swimming to my way of thinking is a form of transpor-

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